

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
March 25, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Witt, who led the Pledge. Members present included: Leanne Gisburne, Doug Holdmeyer, Jamie Holtmeier, Katie Schonaerts, Barbara Volmert, and Carolyn Witt. Councilmembers present were Chad Briggs and Joe Holtmeier.

Jamie moved that the adjusted agenda be approved. Motion seconded by Leanne and the motion carried. Doug moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Jamie. Motion carried.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: The Friends are sponsoring Kim to attend the Public Library Assistant (PLA) convention in Columbus, Ohio April 3-5. Nelson will also attend. The friends are also sponsoring the Summer Reading Kickoff and an upgrade to the Library of Things in the children's area. The upgrade will include shelving and new materials such as Tonie Boxes.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Statistics and Collections: February Statistics are attached. Nelson noted that circulation was up slightly and that passports continue to be impressive with 60 in February. During the temporary closing of the post office, many of their passport appointments came to the library.

The library has received a state grant to fund Memory Kits for Seniors with impaired memory. These will be available once received and catalogued.

The library has also received a \$13,500 grant to purchase a Charlie Cart, a mobile food station. This will allow the library to provide cooking literacy for the community with demonstrations. The program is expected to be ready this summer.

Patron Behavior: One instance of graffiti occurred that was turned over to the police. There was an incident in February that came to the library's attention in March. Police investigated and no crime was committed.

Facilities: The new ceiling tiles installed upstairs helped identify some new leakage. The Library of Things will be upgraded with new shelving. Nelson has asked for estimates to add water bottle dispensers to the drinking fountains. The cost would likely come from the Development Fund.

Technology/Communications: Public computers are being switched over to the new hard drives as NOC can get the hard drives ready and scheduled for replacement.

Programs:

The 100th Anniversary *Jumpin' Jubilee* was well attended. The next anniversary event is *A Night in the Stacks* on July 19.

The community read kickoff event, "Give 'Em Hell, Harry," was the best attended event for this partnership. Nelson has heard great feedback about the programming and about the book.

Publicity has started for the Missouri Book Festival, which takes place the 2nd Week of September in Washington. The Missouri Humanities approved the festival's \$15,000 grant application and many programs are already confirmed and in place. The main stage, in the parking lot outside the library, will host food demonstrations, live music, authors and historical figure impersonators. Returning to the

festival will be the popular wrestling program and circus performers. Plans for a poetry slam are underway as well as a partnership with Neighborhood Reads, who will plan story times, presenters, and activities for the youngest readers.

The current, confirmed list of sponsors are: Scenic Regional Library, Washington Public Library, Friends of the Washington Public Library, Reedy Press, Missouri Department of Tourism, and the Missouri Humanities Council. Nelson is also working with the Missourian.

Programs Recap

- Jumpin' Jubilee, Feb 29
- Family Reading Night, Friday March 1
- "Give 'em Hell, Harry," This Community Reads, ECC Auditorium, March 1
- Trivia Night, March 8
- Book Discussion, March 11
- Historic MO Roadsides, March 16
- Travel Map Crafts, March 19
- Road Trip: Kids Club, March 20
- Book Discussion, March 20
- Great Turkey Walk Escape Room, March 23

Programs Upcoming

- Ozark Bourbon Distilling, Tues March 26
- Meet Matthew Algeo; @ Union Branch, SRL, Wed. April 3
- Amy Lutz, "Carl Lutz: The Forgotten Rescuer", Thurs April 11, 6:30
- Poetry Slam/Book Launch for Leah Schulte, Tues April 16, 6:30
- The Art of Charcuterie, Tues April 23, 6:00
- "Missouri: Weird and Wonderful", Tues April 30, 6:30 p.m.

Katie moved that the director's report be accepted, seconded by Leanne. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The board discussed the proposed Reciprocal Agreement between the Scenic Regional Library (SRL) and the Washington Public Library presented by Steve Campbell, director of SRL to the board last month. Jamie made a motion to approve the agreement, which was seconded by Katie. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Carolyn led a discussion about the Velma Stroetker Award given by the board to a member or group that has played a pivotal role in the success of the library. Katie gave a brief history of the founding of the Washington Library by the members of the local CD chapter of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO). A remarkable fact is that for the past 100 years, since the inception of the library, a member of the CD Chapter of the PEO has sat on the library board. Katie made a motion to approve the nomination of the CD Chapter of the PEO to receive this award. Doug seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Katie moved that the meeting be adjourned. Doug seconded the motion, which carried.

NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2024 (there will be no meeting in May)