

Minutes
Bartholomew County Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 14, 2022
Board Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Call to Order

By order and permission of the Governor, the meeting was held by combination of on site and virtual attendance (Zoom). The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Gron.

Present via Zoom: Monta Frazier, Gary Gron, Laura Hack, Vern Jorck, Stephen Shipley, Billie Whitted, and Mike Wilkerson. Library staff: Jason Hatton, Director; Angela Eck, Assistant Director; Michelle Williams, Business Services Coordinator; Robert Mixner, Reference Services Manager. Mike McIver, Attorney.

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 17, 2022 regular meeting and Board of Finance meeting were reviewed. Wilkerson moved and Shipley seconded approval of the January 17, 2022 regular meeting as presented. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously. Hack moved and Whitted seconded approval of the January 17, 2022 Board of Finance meeting as presented. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report and Approval of Claims

A. Claims 31 through 91 in the amount of \$240,187.65 were reviewed. Hatton made note of the following claims: Claim 63 to Forster Electric was to address outlets in the planter on the mezzanine. Claim 66 Indiana Archives for microfilming back issues of The Republic. Claim 74 to Niche Academy for a database of tutorials. Claim 89 to Scholastic for the Teachables database. Claim 90 to Ebsco for the Consumer Reports database. Jorck moved and Shipley seconded approval to pay Claims 31 through 91 in the amount of \$240,187.65. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

None.

Reports

A. 2021 Statistics. Hatton made a presentation with 2021 statistics including a comparison with data from previous years. He noted that the numbers on CDs and DVDs continue to decrease. Gron asked if we would vacate the DVD/CD space eventually. Hatton said that was a possibility as we explore future plans. Moving Reference to that area is one option along with moving some functions of Digital Underground. Frazier asked for clarification on the Outside numbers, whether that was on the plaza or completely away from the library.

Hatton answered that those numbers were for programs completely off-site, such as parks, and schools. Whitted asked how Hope numbers were. Hatton answered that they are included in the overall numbers and compiled together. He did pull out some Hope specifics for the Board. Hope had 16 outreach programs with 183 attendees. 2021 checkouts were just under 34,000, similar to 2020 numbers. The Hope door count was up almost 4,000 to approximately 11,900.

Jorck asked what accounted for the decrease in young adult numbers. Hatton said the difference is simply kids not coming in after school as they did in the past. He said that Decker Cavosie from the Teen Department has visited both Jr. High Schools to attend their on-site activities to engage. He said that onsite participation is affected because transportation is tricky for that age group. He added that COVID restrictions was also most likely a contributing factor as well.

B. Robert Mixner, Reference Services Manager. Mixner discussed the role played by the Reference department and stressed the focus on serving our patrons. He said this a very busy time at the Reference service desk at Main, due to tax season; helping patrons download tax forms, helping them access on-line help, and offering guidance with technical aspects on electronic filing, etc.

Mixner discussed Collection development and program development. He noted some specific points of focus going forward including incorporating more reader advisory, increasing Hope programming, reconnecting with Community partners, and pursuing Grants for funding. He noted that the Program Committee is looking forward to using the Red Room again. He feels that improving our programs for adults is instrumental in our patrons fostering that interest in young readers. Hatton asked Mixner to further explain readers advisory. Mixner said that at its core, it asks our patrons what they want to read next. We discuss what books the reader likes to read or what movies they like to watch. He also discussed our book bundles. Patrons fill out a form of what they like, and then staff members fill a box with books or movies tailored to that individual. Gron asked if there is a tracker on what is read. Mixner said that to protect patron privacy, there is no tracker.

Going back to the earlier discussion about physical changes and location of the Reference area, Mixner said it would potentially mirror the Adult Circulation area. Whitted thought that was a good plan. Mixner said it would be similar to the original design concept for the area. Frazier asked where the Reference office was located. Mixner said that's part of the issue – Reference doesn't have a dedicated space. There is some desk space in the Ref/Circ work area, but it is scattered. They would like to have a centralized location for better work cohesion. Hatton said it goes back to the need for more office space overall.

C. Legislative update. Hatton gave a presentation on SB17 and HB1134. Discussion was held regarding the intent and potential consequences of the bills. Gron asked if other states have similar laws in force or under consideration. Hatton said that some states do have similar laws under consideration. Whitted asked if we have had any requests for reconsideration of any items in our collection. Hatton answered that to his knowledge, we have had no such requests while he has been Director. We do have forms available for patrons to request such reconsideration. Mixner said he had received one request at the Selector level regarding where an item was shelved in the library, which was resolved through clarification with the patron. Whitted asked what has changed about the selection process and if it was books pushing limits. Hatton said it's hard to speak to why the questions arise. As to the theory that it is political, Hatton said that we try to stay out of the political arena; that we are here to serve everyone and support books. Mixner added that the Collection team chooses items on

topical issues, including political issues, but that we try to select items with differing points-of-view.

Public Comment – 10 minutes

None.

New Business

Hatton provided updates on the renovation/Red Room project. He said we hope to have it usable in time for National Library Week in April, although we don't anticipate delivery of some items, including doors and windows, until mid-May. Frazier asked about the color scheme for the Red Room. Hatton answered that it is very close to the original color, with a deep red for the carpet.

Gron reminded the Board of the next meeting on March 21. Hatton said it is expected that the Governor will remove the Emergency declaration, meaning we will potentially be in-person for the next meeting. He will provide further direction as that unfolds.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Attested:

Billie Whitted, Secretary

Gary Gron, President