

Minutes
Bartholomew County Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 9, 2022
Board Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was held by combination of on site and virtual attendance (Zoom). The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by President Gron.

Present on site: Monta Frazier, Gary Gron, Laura Hack, Vern Jorck, and Stephen Shipley. Library staff: Jason Hatton, Director; Angela Eck, Assistant Director; Michelle Williams, Business Services Coordinator; Dakota Hall, Teen Programming Librarian. Mike McIver, Attorney.

Present via Zoom: Mike Wilkerson

Absent: Billie Whitted

Gron asked for a volunteer to serve as Secretary pro tem. Frazier volunteered. Hack moved and Jorck seconded approval to appoint Frazier as Secretary Pro Tem. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 11, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Wilkerson moved and Jorck seconded approval of the April 11, 2022 meeting as presented. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report and Approval of Claims

A. Claims 244 through 314 in the amount of \$462,685.13 were reviewed. Hatton made note of the following claims: Claim 273 paid out of LIRF to Experience Technology is for Red Room Technology. Claim 285 to Kramer for the new podium in the Red Room. Claim 296 paid out of LIRF to Repp & Mundt for Red Room renovations. Claim 298 to SirsiDynix for our integrated library system. Claim 314 to the State Library for InfoExpress for delivery services. Hack moved and Jorck seconded approval to pay Claims 244 through 314 in the amount of \$462,685.13. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

A. Strategic Planning Proposal. Hatton reviewed the Strategic Planning Proposal as presented at the April 11 meeting. He reminded the Board that the previous plan was established in 2016 with a three-year time frame for review and revision. That plan was reaffirmed in 2019. He noted the many changes that have taken place in the past three years as well as some new opportunities we have available. He discussed and compared the two quotes we received and advised he felt the quote from Margaret Sullivan Studio, although more expensive, was the better fit for the library and for the community as a whole. In light of

the community involvement, he has a firm commitment from Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives (CIAA) for a portion of the costs, and he is in discussions with Heritage Fund for an additional grant towards the cost. He said that this work would benefit the community and CIAA. He said that Sullivan is very interested in this project due in particular to the connection between libraries and architecture. He said an approximate start date for the project would be June or July. Jorck moved to accept the bid from Margaret Sullivan Studio pending funds from Heritage Fund and Wilkerson seconded. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

A. First Amendment as it Pertains to Libraries. Gron stated as previously discussed, what we do at BCPL is based on the First Amendment and copyright laws. Hatton made a presentation on research – not legal advice – of legal precedent added through the years. He addressed library materials and how they are selected. BCPL has a Collection Development Team and a Collection Development Policy. The committee is comprised of trained librarians who curate the collection. He discussed the application of the Library Bill of Rights. He said this issue is foundational to all libraries. Gron said that making materials available is the key function of libraries, a difference from promoting materials.

B. Zine Collection – Dakota Hall. Hall stated his purpose was to demystify the Zine collection. He said they've been around since the late 80s/early 90s. They are do-it-yourself magazines for individual, not mainstream, ideas. There are many genres, including art – pictures or poems, compilations – collections of poems, recipe books, how-tos, etc. They can be fanzines – whatever interests the creator. They could be literary or music related, such as a list of books or an essay about a book, or original music to concert reviews. He added they could also be perzines, which could be a personal purview or a collection of letters. He said we received most of our starter collection from Monroe County library. Hall said that the specialized or niche topics are a benefit of the Zines. It can also benefit a creator who is excited to see something they created being housed in the library.

Responding to questions, Hall said that the Zines are available for checkout. The age range for patrons and creators is child to adult ages. Shipley said he could see value in the Zines and asked if there was a rubric for assessment of individual titles. Hall answered they are assessed on literary merit and the artwork for artistic value if there is no cost to the library. Shipley asked if some were geared towards adults why they are located in the Teen area. Hall answered that most, but not all, are geared towards Teens, so the display is located by the Adult Graphic Novel area, close to the Teen area.

Hack asked if we make copies of the Zines. Hall said some are copied if they were local, and we keep the original. Hack asked how long we keep them. Hall said since these are new, we haven't determined the expected life span. Hack asked if they are cataloged and Hall said yes, they are cataloged into our collection. She asked if they are fact-checked and Hall said they are held to similar standards as books. Gron asked about copyright law concerns. Hall answered that they are not a large-scale production and they are not for profit. Hack asked if a child created a Zine, where it would be housed. Hall answered that we have only one Zine location, so all are housed together. Shipley said that one particular title referenced arson and seemed to be promoting arson. Hall said it was promoting an ideology and that the library does not promote the issue. Shipley said that with a provocative title and a lack of separation, it

makes it a hot topic. Hall answered that there are no age restrictions on any materials in the library, and that it would be a parent's responsibility to review a child's selections, not the library. Hatton said that it is a small collection. We have other small collections, such as foreign language books or movies that are all housed together. Hall added that as the collection grows, we might consider separate collections. Shipley said it could be interesting to use as a class project to present opposing viewpoints and asked if there is an activity guide to create Zines. Hall answered that there are programs and workshops.

C. New Policies.

1. Programming Policy. Hatton said this policy governs what we are doing regarding our programming. It provides guidance to staff. It lets the public know what our mission and philosophy are. He said a copy of the 5/2022 version was forwarded to all Board members for preview. Gron asked if it is typical for libraries to have a programming policy. Hatton responded that surprisingly few do. Jorck moved to approve the Programming Policy as presented. Wilkerson seconded. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Buildings and Grounds Policy. Hatton said this policy encompasses the entire library, including meeting rooms, the Plaza, everything outside and inside the library. He said that BCPL and Friends' use would take precedence over other programs. He noted that he would edit the policy to include Meeting Room 4, as it was not included in the presented language. Hack moved to approve the Buildings and Grounds Policy as edited. Shipley seconded. The Board was polled and all answered Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – 10 minutes

Several members of the community attended the meeting to express their thoughts and opinions regarding materials available at the library, both in support and opposition. They expressed their opinions on materials, programs, the appearance of departments within the library, and activity outside the library. Gron thanked them for their input and said that we will evaluate their feedback. He added that the Board and the library appreciate the communication of ideas from all perspectives.

New Business

Reminder of the next Board Meeting on June 13.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Attested:

Monta Frazier, Secretary Pro Tem

Gary Gron, President