

Minutes  
Bartholomew County Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 5, 2018  
Board Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by President Whitted.

Present: Monta Frazier, Gary Gron, Vern Jorck, Billie Whitted, Angie Wieneke, and Mike Wilkerson. Library staff: Jason Hatton, Director; Angela Eck, Assistant Director; Michelle Williams, Business Services Coordinator; Mary Clare Speckner, Adult Programs; Dave Miller, Hope Branch Supervisor; Mike Mclver, attorney.

Absent: Brenda Tallent

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 12, 2018 Board meeting were reviewed. Gron moved and Jorck seconded approval of the February 12, 2018 Board minutes. Motions carried unanimously.

Financial Report and Approval of Claims

A. Claims 16543 through 16606 in the amount of \$286,854.87 were reviewed. Hatton made note of the following claims: Claim 16576 to Eleanor Rust is for digitization of archives and will be reimbursed through an LSTA grant. Claim 16593 to N2N is for Sophos anti-virus protection. Claim 16595 is for Zinio, our digital magazine database. Jorck moved and Wilkerson seconded approval to pay Claims 16543 through 16606 in the amount of \$286,854.87. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Authorization to pay bills with prior approval. Hatton reminded the Board that there will be an unusually long time between the March and April Board meetings and that there will be bills not yet received which will come due before the April meeting. He requested that approval be given so that these bills can be paid to avoid late penalties or a break in services. He also reminded the Board that there is a resolution already in effect that allows some bills to be paid between meetings, e.g., utilities, service contract obligations. Whitted led a discussion regarding any legal concerns and time parameters of any approval. Mclver advised that, pending legal review, a motion to allow prior approval could be made. Wilkerson moved and Frazier seconded that prior approval to pay monthly bills to avoid late penalties or break in service through April 16, 2018 be granted. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

None.

## Reports

A. Adult programs. Mary Clare Speckner gave a presentation on the programs now being offered by the library. She discussed the growth and strength of the programming in Children's and how it was challenging the Adult programs to catch up. She reported that in March 2018, there were 32 programs for adults as well as 4 programs for all ages. She mentioned CAMEO, the writer's group, outreach programs, and community collaboration efforts. Two well-received programs in the past year were the Fall-O-Ween party and the recent Family Formal. Also, over the last year, there were large gatherings on the Plaza for the Eclipse viewing, to visit the Conversation Plinth, and to attend the Arts Council

Speckner told the Board about upcoming programming including presentations by WISH-TV's Randy Ollis in April and Indianapolis 500 Historian Donald Davidson in May. Speckner also talked about creative programming where we see what other libraries are doing, at times, "sharing" a presenter with another library to help defray costs and looking for local presenters. Weineke asked how we get presenters. Speckner advised that anyone with an idea for a presenter should contact her. She said some presenters are in conjunction with local businesses, such as an April program with the Indiana Poet Laureate which is a joint effort with Viewpoint Books.

Speckner discussed the Community Book Read for this year, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. A \$1,000 grant was awarded to BCPL to host community programs tied to the book. She advised there have been discussions about a movie festival as one of the events.

Speckner talked about several other upcoming programs, including Literacy Task Force's Literacy Festival, which is probably moving back to BCPL in 2019, and Financial Literacy with Money Smart week in late April. Weineke asked where information on programs distributed. Speckner said that in addition to our monthly e-blast newsletter, there are printed monthly program guides available. Frazier asked if speakers and presenters are paid. Speckner answered that some are paid. There are grants for some programs and speakers, while others are paid by BCPL or the Bartholomew County Library Associates (BCLA). Whitted asked about other advertising opportunities for programs such as grocery stores or other public spaces.

B. Report from Fines Committee. David Miller reported on concerns identified by the committee regarding whether to eliminate fines on overdue items: Circulation staff is on the front lines with fine-related issues, when children's cards cause delinquencies, should the child be cut-off from resources, whether having fines on their card is a barrier to patrons coming to the library, fines not being levied consistently, etc. The committee reached out to Sullivan County Public Library and Hagerstown Public Library, both of which have gone fine free. Miller reported that the committee's recommendation was that the wisest course was to stop charging all fines and late fees. Gron asked if there would be delays in processing holds. Hatton advised that doesn't seem to be a common problem as we normally have multiple copies and there are no renewals allowed on some of these "express" items. McIver asked how much the library takes in annually fines and fees. Hatton answered that the income from overdue late fees, lost items and other fines is approximately \$55,000. The pros and cons of doing away with the fines was discussed. Hatton told the Board that no action was being

requested, just discussion at this time. Miller said that he was available for questions the Board members might have after considering the options.

Public Comment – 10 minutes

One member of the community was present and indicated that he enjoyed hearing the information that was presented.

New Business

Hatton advised that we just received notice from the State Library that there will be changes in the Talking Books program effective at the end of their Fiscal Year, which is September 30, 2018. BCPL is a sub-regional of ISL for this program. As of October 2018, all activity will be done out of the Indianapolis location. For this most recent fiscal period, we received \$75,000 from the state. From those funds, we paid one full-time employee and one part-time employee. There are some options including reduced services to download items and serve as a readers advisory or discontinuing all functions of the program completely. Hatton advised he would seek input from the two current Talking Books employees to determine how to proceed.

Hatton reminded the Board that the April meeting was moved out one week to April 16, 2018.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Attested:

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Gary Gron, Secretary

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Billie Whitted, President