

Minutes
Bartholomew County Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 14, 2021
Board Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Call to Order

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

Members Present: Monta Frazier, Gary Gron, Laura Hack, Vern Jorck, Stephen Shipley, Billie Whitted, and Mike Wilkerson. Library staff: Jason Hatton, Director; Michelle Williams, Business Services Coordinator; Sandy Allman, Outreach Librarian. Mike McIver, Attorney.

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 10, 2021 board meeting were reviewed. Jorck moved and Wilkerson seconded approval of the May 10, 2021 board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report and Approval of Claims

A. Claims 331 through 406 in the amount of \$765,555.82 were reviewed. Hatton made note of the following claims: Claim 331 to Johnson-Witkemper is for insurance for Large Arch. Claim 338 is for transfer of funds from TrustINdiana to First Financial checking. Claim 381 to Koorsen is for fire protection inspection. Claim 384 to Louis Joyner is for Architect services for upcoming projects including the Red Room, carpeting, acoustics, etc. Claim 395 to Repp & Mundt is for the lower level courtyard brickwork. With the new configuration, it has become more “program friendly”, with the programs drawing 65-70 attendees. Claim 398 to Stratosphere is for new public computers. Jorck asked if there was a replacement schedule for the public computers. Hatton answered that it is generally 5 years depending on how they’re working; it’s not a firm schedule. Frazier moved and Shipley seconded approval to pay Claims 331 through 406 in the amount of \$765,555.82. Motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

A. Bylaws Amendment – Electronic Meetings. Hatton said that the proposed changes to the Bylaws reflect the language used in the Electronic Meeting Policy. He made note of the fact that while some Board members may appear virtually, there still has to be a quorum on site. Jorck asked if all library boards have the same number of members, and Hatton answered that most do, other than some contractual libraries.

Hack moved and Frazier seconded a Motion to approve the amendment to the Bylaws as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

B. Sunday Hours. Hatton presented information concerning usage, costs, etc. of keeping/resuming Sunday hours. There was discussion on the original decision for Sunday hours and whether those reasons still exist. Hatton presented statistics on door count and patron usage as well as the financial considerations of resuming Sunday hours. He also presented information regarding what other libraries around us and libraries serving similar populations are doing about Sundays. He included information on the Sunday schedules of businesses and activities in the downtown Columbus area surrounding the library. After further discussion, Whitted moved that the library be closed on Sundays. Wilkerson seconded the motion. Hack asked if there should be a committee formed for further examination of the situation. Gron asked if there was any point in putting off a decision, noting that the facts are unlikely to change. He called for the vote. Motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Reports

A. Sandy Allman – Outreach Librarian. Allman presented a synopsis of the Outreach activities over the last few years. She said BCPL took over the Book Express from BCSC in 2018. At that time, the programs were in a few neighborhoods with 5-10 attendees. In 2019, we faced several challenges with the Book Express vehicle we received from BCSC. After a new vehicle was purchased, we resumed connections through appearances at block parties, festivals, the fair, etc.

Allman said that due to COVID, there were restrictions on appearances, however, the Book Express restarted even before the buildings were reopened. Over 1400 books were distributed at approximately 46 sites. Food pantries were added as stop sites as well to best assist underserved communities.

Allman reported that she applied for and received grants. She was excited that this allowed her to get brand new books to distribute, with a focus on books that kids ask for, including Dog Man series, Harry Potter, Pete the Cat, Junie B. Jones, and the Hunger Games series. She said we also purchased many Spanish and bi-lingual editions and easy readers. These books make good transitional books, in particular for non-English speaking parents to help their children with reading skills. She said that in addition to the fiction titles, non-fiction and animal stories were very popular with kids.

In September 2020, Marty Hirons was added as a partner three days a week. This enabled the Book Express to have a dependable schedule and availability. Allman said that Hirons does a great job putting together take & make crafts, preparing over 860 of such craft kits.

Allman said it was important to have a high standard for the books we give away. They should be quality/new items. She reported that in 2020/2021, there were five high-school seniors who worked with the Book Express for their senior projects, collecting over 2500 books in the process. She gave information on the grants received from the Kiwanis, The Reeves Foundation and Landmark Farms in addition to donations and the senior projects that support our endeavors.

Allman said that her goal is to constantly expand; not just giveaways, but being an additional Resource the library can offer. The Outreach is a means of connecting

with the at-risk population and providing all the resources the library has. She said she's proud that we have tripled the number of stops/sites since 2019.

Public Comment – 10 minutes

None.

New Business

Hatton reminded the Board that the date for the July meeting has been changed to Tuesday, July 13 at 4:00 pm, and that it will be in person.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Attested:

Billie Whitted, Secretary

Gary Gron, President