



BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

July 23rd, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – Board of Trustees

A Board of Trustees meeting, of the Peru Public Library, was held on Thursday, July 23rd, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and was presided over by President Alison Paul.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Bryan Maggart, Deb Swihart, Leslie Murphy, Melissa Duckwall, and President Alison Paul.*

MEMBER APOLOGIES: *Board member Austina Reed was unable to be present, but did call in for the duration of the meeting. Because she was not physically present, she was unable to vote on anything.*

DIRECTOR PRESENT: *Maryann Farnham and Assistant Director, Michelle Spangler, were present.*

GUESTS: *Staff member Lisa Rummel was also present, to take the minutes. No other guests were present.*

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

June Minutes

The secretary, Duckwall, hadn't looked over the minutes from June yet, so read through them during the meeting and found an extra "L" in Paul's name on the final page. Duckwall signed after noting that correction. Maggart motioned to accept the minutes as corrected and Murphy seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Swihart, the treasurer, had looked over the financials and thought everything looked fine. Farnham had a couple of notes regarding bills and claims. Maggart motioned to accept the financial statements, claims, and bank and deposit statements. Duckwall seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Farnham had not heard anything about the new appointment from the school board. Murphy asked how nominations for board members work, and that, as well as the rest of the process, was discussed. It ending with the reminder that the library staff and board don't actually impact the process that much, it is entirely up to the appointing body.

The library received a \$4,400 grant from United Way that covers PPE, some Summer Reading program things, a month of hotspot bills, among other items. Farnham asked Maggart if it was a reoccurring grant or not. Maggart thought that for personal protection equipment we could reapply. He had told United Way thank you on the library's behalf already and Farnham had talked to them as well.

Reed, over the phone, then discussed the Humanities Grant, which would provide an historical statue and a painting to be displayed on library grounds. This funding opportunity with OCRA and the humanities is working to preserve women's history. Marie Stewart Edwards was pivotal in Women's Suffrage and was a Peru resident, so seems to be a natural choice for this. Regine Brindle and her team have asked if the library would work with them on this, and have a life-sized statue of her on her bike here at the library. There are several things they want to do in Miami County to memorialize this

history. It would be a bronze sculpture that would be of no cost to the library – the library would simply provide approval of the design and the location. Applying for the \$35,000 grant, because it is a matched grant and the money has already been matched, would pay for everything. They would simply like approval from our board in our minutes for the collaboration and placement of the statue and a possible future painting or bust. The library would have some creative say in all of it, and would become the first stop on the Women’s Suffrage Trail being created. We would find out the result of the grant application in August. Forms were briefly discussed at this point.

Paul motioned that the board accept this partnership to participate. Swihart had concerns about any potential risks regarding the history of Marie Edwards. Reed stated that the history had been thoroughly vetted and that it is very rare for there to be statues of real women who helped with women’s suffrage. Nothing concerning had come up in any of the research or vetting process. Maggart stated he would be abstaining from the vote. Swihart seconded Paul’s motion to accept the partnership. Duckwall and Murphy weren’t voting so Paul asked about tabling it. It would cause issues for the grant, but discussion continued.

They have been working on this for a while, but only came up with the details recently. So while the board had been informed of the possibility months before, no one had known details until 2 weeks previous. Duckwall and Murphy expressed their displeasure over this. Paul wasn’t sure if it would disrupt the process if the library board waited to vote on it until next month, as the application is already submitted. Paul motioned to table the vote until next month with Swihart seconding. Duckwall and Murphy voted yes, Maggart abstained.

Reed said she’d ask Regine Brindle to come to the next meeting, if she isn’t appointed to the library board.

The state library representative, Hayley Trefun will be coming August 27th at 5 pm, which is right before the board meeting, to discuss adding to the library’s service area and how that would work.

The 2021 budget growth quotient is 4.2%, which means the budget could be \$497,168. This is contingent as always on the DLGF meeting, scheduled for Friday, August 21st, at 9:45 am via MS Teams. There has been a committee meeting, so Swihart discussed that. They think any budget cuts will need to be to staff cost of living raises. Without having the extra funds from the county agreement, it’s really crimped. They won’t know for certain how it will work out until the DLGF meeting happens.

Farnham is waiting on committee appointments until the new board member is appointed.

She next asked if anyone would like to help by being on the committee for the strategic plan due in 2021. Paul volunteered, and while Swihart declined, Maggart said he would be on the committee as well. Reed would also love to be involved. Farnham shared a little bit about the last one and how it worked out, and said she would send out her draft and edits to the last one.

Farnham then gave an update on COVID-19 and the future for the library. There are still around 70 people a day visiting the library, with half that on Saturdays (which are open for half a day). She is recommending hours stay the same for August as well. Masks have changed to being mandatory as of the following Monday due to the newly released Governors mandate. There haven’t been any issues with tables and people’s use of them. There will still be no in-person programs.

Spangler reported on the summer reading program. 211 kids and teens have registered. While the program technically ends on July 31st, she will be allowing completion of the program through Saturday, August 1st.

Spangler also informed the board of some of the other programs she has going on, including the monthly scavenger hunt – as it does not require any cleaning and social distancing can still occur during it, a paper bag challenge going with Legos, and Carla’s story time video. They aren’t sure the outreach trips to North Miami Middle School will be able to happen, unless they can perhaps happen virtually. Spangler will be waiting to see what the schools do and how it goes for them.

On the renovations, the signs still need to go up for the handicap parking spaces. QPH should be about done with the heating pump repair. For future repairs, Murphy talked about having a cushion for the AV, in the SHARP fund, and then about the possibility of getting a new AC unit eventually, with maybe starting to work on getting some of the security cameras sooner rather than later. Murphy and Swihart are going to look into getting a grant for the book drop. Farnham has sent a letter asking about getting some information about replacing the AC unit eventually, with a proper one that will work better for the space we have. She thought that could go into the long range strategic plan.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

The Declaration of Fiscal Body was the first item under new business. Some libraries in the state would have huge operating balances, which means the fiscal body can take over and reduce the tax rate in order to force them to not hoard their funds. But then, it turned out some libraries didn’t know who their fiscal body was. Thus, this declaration now has to be filled out by every library, signed, and taken to the fiscal body – the city, for us – to be acknowledged by them as well. Paul motioned to declare that Peru City Council is the Peru Public Library’s fiscal body, and Murphy seconded. The motion passed with all ayes. Paul signed the form. A few board members will probably be asked to go to the meeting when it is on the city’s docket.

President Paul then had something to add. She had talked to Brenda Weaver, who is pro-library, so if Weaver wins the election in November there is a possibility that the agreement with the county for the subsidized cards could happen again. We are currently a line item on the 2021 budget, but could be removed. The library will have to wait and see.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned by President Paul at 7:46 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Lisa Rummel, Peru Public Library staff member

SECRETARY APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Peru Public Library
