



BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 24th, 2021

CALL TO ORDER – Board of Trustees

A Board of Trustees meeting, of the Peru Public Library, was held on Thursday, June 24th, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM and was presided over by President Alison Paul.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Regine Brindle, Ellen Harvey, Leslie Murphy, Regina McDowell, Bryan Maggart, Deb Swihart, and President Alison Paul.*

MEMBER APOLOGIES: *none*

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

GUESTS: *Staff member Lisa Rummel was also present, to take the minutes.*

New board member Regina McDowell was welcomed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brindle and Harvey were the nomination committee so Brindle read the officer nominations.

Alison Paul was nominated for re-election as President, and Maggart for consideration as President. Swihart was nominated for Treasurer again, and Brindle for Secretary. Murphy said she would fill in as needed.

The vote for president was done anonymously, with each board member writing their vote on a piece of paper that Spangler collected in a paper bag and which Harvey then shuffled and read the votes aloud. There were three votes for Maggart and four for Paul, so Paul was elected as the board president.

Maggart was asked if he would then like to be vice-president again and he declined but nominated Murphy. As there was no one else that wanted to volunteer for the nomination, Murphy agreed and the last three positions were voted for as a slate, as they were uncontested. The roll was as follows: Brindle – aye, Harvey – aye, McDowell – aye, Maggart – aye, Swihart – aye, and Paul – aye. All nominations were confirmed.

The officers for the next year are thus Paul as president, Murphy as vice-president, Swihart as treasurer, and Brindle as secretary.

McDowell did ask how long officer terms were for, and it was also clarified that the official recommendation is for board members to sit on the board as a member at large for a year before being elected to any officer position.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

May Minutes

A correction to the page numbers and to the last line on page 2, where the words were changed from “form out” to “from other”, were made, then Swihart motioned to accept the minutes as corrected and Murphy seconded. The vote was as follows: Brindle – aye, Harvey – aye, McDowell – aye, Maggart – aye, Swihart – aye, and Paul – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Swihart said everything was fine on the financial statements, although the glitch was still there, it would be until the end of the year or until the state comes up with a different way to handle it. There were only two additions to claims and the AC issues would be discussed later, Farnham commented. Maggart had a question about the charge for the lawyer. Farnham said it was both he retainer fee and for an employee question she needed answered.

Murphy motioned to accept the financial statements, claims, bank and deposit statements and Harvey seconded. Roll was called for the vote: Brindle – aye, Harvey – aye, McDowell – aye, Maggart – aye, Swihart – aye, and Paul – aye. The vote passed with all ayes.

AGENDA

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Farnham told the board that they had an update on the Marie Stuart Edwards statue finally. She has the insurance paperwork for the landscaping (not the statue) and a date for the unveiling. Murphy asked if that meant the funds were all in and Paul said that would be covered in new business. Maggart motioned to discuss that now and Murphy seconded. Roll was called: Brindle – aye, Harvey – aye, McDowell – aye, Maggart – aye, Swihart – aye, and Paul – aye. The motion to discuss all topics pertaining to the statue passed with all ayes.

Allison Paul attended a ReDiscover Downtown Peru (RDP) open meeting today. She had a list of questions to ask about the statue. Farnham was also there, as she is also on the RDP board. They wanted to know things about the orientation of the front of the statue, the exact location, and the funding. Aces PLUS have raised about \$48,000. They are in the process of garnishing donations from larger corporate sponsors. Those sponsors' names, how many of them there are, and the amount expected from them were not mentioned. There was discussion on whether the money would be received, but Aces PLUS thought it would be and that it would all fall into place in time, as did the head of the fundraising committee, Missy Ward, based on a conversation Farnham had with her later. There was also discussion about how much had been paid to the artist and how much is left in the coffers, which is nothing – RDP hasn't yet received all the grant funds. There was no real discussion about planning for the Lt. Governor's two-hour visit for the unveiling, so Paul presented her questions about the organization and management of that, to which there was no real answers given. The fundraising letters sent out were also discussed, as the information in them seemed to disagree with what was being said in the meeting.

Paul suggested they have the director (Farnham) write to the city and ask if the statue can or will be, or even is already, covered by the off-site coverage the city already has. Maintenance and landscaping upkeep was discussed briefly. Jim Tidd mentioned that if the Library ended up helping with the reception, all bills should be sent to him at MACEDA. Paul said she had again offered to help but made it clear that the library would not be planning the reception, and we needed clear direction as to what would be required of us.

Farnham said the library has already started to get phone calls about the statue unveiling, so she's been directing all calls to Austina Reed, of Aces PLUS. Timeline for completion was also discussed.

Farnham's final comment on the topic was that the library will not let the reception look bad – the library staff will make it work if we have to. Paul was glad she went to the meeting, even if it was just to ensure they understood we weren't taking initiatives for any planning regarding the reception.

There was further discussion, and it was agreed that the staff would come up with a back-up plan, just in case. After further discussion, the board agreed to move onto the rest of the director's report.

Spangler received a call from NICF today and was informed that they had awarded a \$3,000 grant to the library for the storywalk. They encouraged her to talk to the Boomerang Sisterhood for another grant. She only needs \$2,000 now. The Boomerang grant is due in August, and if that doesn't finish funding the project, Dukes foundation will be next. Spangler is hopeful that we can get the money by the end of the year and have the storywalk put in next spring.

Spangler also gave the board a rundown of the Summer Reading Program statistics and information on the Wednesdays in the Park program making it onto the front page of the Kokomo Tribune with several pictures and a short blurb.

Farnham shared that in-person programming will be resuming in September and discussed some of the things going on for that, as there will be both new and old programs starting up then. She and Spangler also talked about some of the special programs they are wanting to do for the holidays this year.

The budget committee can't meet yet, as Farnham is still waiting on the growth quotient. A welcome to McDowell was extended again at this point. The board was also reminded of the rescheduled July meeting date.

There were major issues with the AC again, as one of the two compressors died. Only one was ever used and Farnham isn't sure which one died. There is a proposal to replace the compressor in the board packet, but she also asked for a proposal for a new unit that would actually work for the library and is still waiting on that. She was told that AC units are made to only last 10 years, so considering how many issues we've had with it, she wanted to see an alternative. The board asked where that money would come from and Farnham said she didn't know. Possibilities were discussed for a bit, but she pointed out that this wasn't something that needed to be discussed and decided on immediately, it's just something to be aware of for the future.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS

Paul double checked that everyone had received a copy of the emails between Maggart and County Commissioner Alan Hunt. They had so discussion about what to do next commenced. The negotiating committee would be the President and Vice-president, so Paul and Murphy, and Paul asked if Maggart wanted to be on it again as well, which he declined. Regardless of who is on the committee, the board can still send a letter asking for a meeting. They will need to know the outcome for their budget, so there is a deadline for this. Paul said she would like to suggest she writes a letter to Ralph Duckwall and Brenda Weaver suggesting we meet to discuss this and made a motion saying this. Swihart seconded. The vote was as follows: Brindle – aye, Harvey – aye, McDowell – aye, Maggart – aye, Swihart – aye, and Paul – aye. The motion passed unanimously. She thought it best to keep it basic and generic, and to have it be more informal than asking for negotiations, even though it definitely wouldn't be just her going to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Trustee Code of Ethics was passed around for everyone to sign, which they did.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned by President Paul at 8:02 PM.

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

SECRETARY APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date) _____

Peru Public Library