



BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

April 28th, 2022

CALL TO ORDER – Board of Trustees

A Board of Trustees meeting, of the Peru Public Library, was held on Thursday, April 28th, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM and was presided over by President Alison Paul.

ATTENDEES

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

MEMBER APOLOGIES: *Bryan Maggart and Leslie Murphy.*

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

GUESTS: *Heidi Wright and Jay Albright from Northern Indiana Community Foundation (NICF). Staff member Lisa Rummel was also present, to take the minutes.*

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

March Minutes

McDowell had approved the minutes. Swihart motioned to accept the minutes as written. Brindle seconded. Brindle called the roll for the vote: Brindle – aye, Harvey – aye, McDowell – aye, Paul – aye, and Swihart - aye. The motion passed with all ayes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Swihart, the treasurer, had reviewed the financials and said it all looked fine.

Farnham mentioned a claim that might look weird but was for a game table on the children's floor.

Swihart mentioned there was an item explanation in the financials that would normally be confidential but had slipped in this time around. Harvey motioned to accept the financial statements, claims, and bank and deposit statements. Brindle seconded. Roll was called: Brindle – aye, Harvey – aye, McDowell – aye, Paul – aye, and Swihart – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heidi Wright, from NICF, presented the library with a check for \$7,444 from the various trusts the Foundation manages for the library. Heidi Wright then gave a brief presentation about the NICF's role and what funds the library has with them. Paul and Farnham both thanked them.

AGENDA

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Farnham reported that she had finished one section of the library policy update, collection development, and was now working on the circulation section. There are a few more things to add in and she is trying to separate policy from procedures. It should be ready to appoint a committee at the May meeting.

There has been no word from the mayor about reappointing Paul to the library board of trustees. Murphy has already been reappointed. Harvey is planning to move out of the city limits soon, so isn't going to be reappointed. Her appointing body has been informed they will need to appoint someone else.

The library has spent all the ARPA Grant money so Farnham has started to gather documentation for the reimbursement. She is waiting for the March credit card bill to document the charge for the new computers. Once she sends in the documentation, the library should be reimbursed within 4-6 weeks.

Spangler talked to Cliff from the Peru Parks Department. He said he would have the storywalk ready to go by June. The weather has delayed his anticipated start date so far. Spangler has several books ready to go already. Details about the books, the set-up, and more were discussed, including programming and special event ideas that Spangler has.

The discolored ceiling tiles in the east meeting room haven't been changed yet. Farnham wanted to wait until we were safely past the last snow date.

Atlas explained the basement leak would not be an easy fix. They require someone else to excavate the area down 6-8 feet and across, and then brace it, before they (Atlas) could address the leak. Farnham said she is looking, but the companies doing this type of work are in Indianapolis and are expensive. The board asked if Atlas could get sub-contractors. Atlas does not do that. Paul had also checked with some companies in Kokomo, but they do small houses, not larger buildings.

Farnham had contacted Levi at QHP, and he visited along with a project engineer. The project engineer thought there was a possibility our system was underworking, not overworking. So, it was suggested it should be turned up and forced to work. Levi's guy disagreed. The cost of a new AC, according to them, would be \$81,000. Day's Heating and Plumbing also came out to look at our system and thought it could be tweaked to increase air flow. The downside to running the system harder is the larger electric bill. Farnham also called Thermodyn, but they wanted \$2,000 for the consult and inspection. The project engineer from QHP had also said he thought that the AC system would have worked better last year if it had been hotter, thus forcing it to try harder. If the system could be ramped up for even 4-5 years, that would give the library more time to save funds for a new system. It was reported that Maggart called one contracting company and said they would contact Farnham, but she hasn't heard from them. Paul thinks we need to hear back from Day's and talk to Levi and ask why his guy doesn't think ramping up the system would work. Day's was more comfortable with the computer system. Brindle had a name to recommend, but she had to get the name from John Wright at the Circus Hall of Fame. Farnham said her concern was that the library would find someone to put the system in, but then they wouldn't show up in an emergency. Paul said that would simply be included in the contract. There was further discussion about all of the aforementioned information and what companies the board would recommend or not recommend personally. Farnham said she would contact Summers and Worlarskey and see if they do commercial buildings.

There is no word yet on the outside steps work. There is no report from Murphy on the concrete contractors. Swihart had asked her husband about his guy but he still needs to find the contact information. Farnham wants to get quotes for both repairing and removing the steps.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS

Swihart mentioned that she had looked at her and her mom's property taxes and she pays \$50 towards the library while her mom pays \$100. Thus, the current non-resident card charge seems to be on par with the average that she found. Paul is glad the cost wasn't lowered. Farnham mentioned that the fee hasn't been increased since 2013 and really should be more. However, as we have a lot of rural people, she hates to increase it.

NEW BUSINESS

Brindle spoke about a Marie Stuart Edwards time capsule and passed out some information about the final touches needed for the statue. Miami County Indiana Worth Remembering (MCIWR) would like the library to decide where the capsule should be buried on library grounds. Brindle discussed the presentation she is giving at the art festival and showed the board the time capsule, informing the board that it would go directly into the ground with a granite inlay and plaque placed over it. The cost would be covered by MCIWR. MCIWR has already started collecting items to put into the time capsule. The library and statue are the first stop on the proposed suffrage trail. They are hoping to put the time capsule in the ground in September, around Marie Edwards' birthday, but are still in the initial stages. MCIWR just wanted to see if the board would be amenable to placing the capsule on library grounds before moving further.

The discussion involved:

- Location: Farnham said she had found a place that looked good for the time capsule.
- Contents
- Theme
- How it tied with the library.

The board thought it might be nice to put in an article about the library, preferably one that was from when Marie Stuart Edwards was on the board. After further discussion of various details, Brindle reiterated that MCIWR just wanted to make sure the library board was included and understood nothing was set in stone yet. Paul wanted to wait to decide anything until the full board was present. The board discussed location, tree root concerns, and capsule contents further.

Finally, Paul handed out written links to a webinar program that the Indiana State Library had presented about materials and Programs challenges. She encouraged everyone to watch it. It shows where we could have been heading had HB 1134 passed. The bill intended to hold librarians criminally responsible if a minor checked out materials deemed offensive or inappropriate by their parents. Farnham recommended watching it in small increments, as it is 2 hours long. Other Indiana libraries experiences were detailed in the video. Discussion was closed with a comment from Paul that libraries must be for everyone. People don't have to check out a book that offends them, but someone else should still be able to.

The next meeting is on May 26th, at 6:30 PM.

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

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

SECRETARY APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Peru Public Library
