



BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

August 25th, 2022

CALL TO ORDER – Board of Trustees

A Board of Trustees meeting, of the Peru Public Library, was held on Thursday, August 25th, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM and was presided over by President Alison Paul.

ATTENDEES

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

MEMBER APOLOGIES: *Rebekah Slack.*

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Weaver said there was still money earmarked for the library for the current budget year, and that the budget for 2023 included \$75,000 for the library. She was going to find out what would be required to claim the funds for this year, and Farnham agreed to talk to the library's lawyer about updating the agreement.

Farnham shared a discussion she had with Interim Mayor Patricia Russell about creating diagonal parking on Huntington St. It was decided this would be discussed further under new business.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Maggart motioned to accept the July minutes as written and Murphy seconded. The vote was all ayes and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Swihart found the financials in good order. Maggart motioned to accept the financial statements, claims, and bank and deposit statements. Brindle seconded. The motion passed unanimously with all ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Farnham shared a 1904 picture of the library sent by Mrs. Barbara McCoy.

Paul read a snippet from a Fort Wayne newspaper about libraries usage.

AGENDA

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Farnham shared that a Cole Porter picture by Valerie May had been donated and was now hanging next to the other Cole Porter art piece.

Farnham sent out a letter to the board with the official 2020 census numbers. The library is still considered a class B library.

The board was reminded of the importance of having a quorum present for the September and October board meetings. September 22nd is the budget hearing and October 27th the budget adoption.

The Library sponsored a Summer Concert at the amphitheater. About 100 people attended. It was quite nice.

The Summer Reading Programs at the park this summer averaged over 100 people each. The pandemic created the need for new options and using the park has really been a plus. Spangler went over all the Summer Reading statistics. She pointed out that the school tours had proven effective in increasing the participation of readers in those grade levels. Statistically cardholder participants numbers are again higher than non-cardholders in the challenge. Participation numbers and rates weren't back to pre-Covid levels yet but were better than last year.

Farnham had several calls from the city this week. The mayor's assistant, Matt, asked for board member support. A push to de-annex some property from the city would cause the library of loss of only \$500, but there was concern about setting a precedent. Murphy and Maggart said they would go to the September 6th meeting, at 4 PM.

An out-of-town library trustee training meeting is available in October. Farnham cannot go, but will register anybody who wants to attend. It is 2 hours long and will address open-door laws and more. Paul asked if it would be available as a webinar, as that would be more convenient.

The leak-stained ceiling tiles in the east meeting room have been replaced. The walls in the basement office were torn out. Mr. Berry came to check that everything was ready for the work to start. The electrician did his part already. On Monday, Berry would do all the work. A jackhammer would be used that day so the library will be closed. However the staff would be working on several special projects, including yard work. The AC is functioning still. It is hard to judge whether the bill went up due to usage or inflation. The water bill was also higher, but the increase could be due to a leaky sink.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS

Board by-laws update:

Farnham pointed out the main additions to the by-laws, including the newly required section on electronic meetings. Some wording was discussed, as well as how electronic meetings would work practically. A bullet point needed moved in this section. Swihart pointed out the bond value was \$20,000 not \$10,000.

Murphy had questions about which committees were needed and ensuring they are approved by the board. Farnham will make all the corrections to the by-laws as discussed and bring them back before the board in September. Farnham will also check if the by-laws need reviewed annually or not.

By-laws will be adopted at the September meeting as prescribed.

Changes to the by-laws will be submitted to the state within two weeks of adoption, as indicated.

The Marie Stuart Edwards time capsule

A letter about the time capsule and trail was included in the board packet. Maggart motioned to accept the recommendations for the time capsule. Swihart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

The salary schedule and budget.

The budget was approved. All that is needed are the hearing, adoption, and the final DGLF approval. Farnham explained the budget was to be uploaded to Gateway. Murphy motioned to accept the salary schedule. Maggart seconded. The motion passed with all ayes.

Purchase of a CD with Beacon FCU savings.

It was recommended by Beacon, as a way to get a much higher interest rate (currently about 3 times the current interest rate for a 1 year CD). There is enough in the PNC account to fund the rest of the year's budget so the idea could be investigated. Swihart expounded on three options then proposed the library purchase 1 year CDs from Beacon on a ladder schedule, with one being purchased now, another in 3 months, and so on, for a quarterly schedule and a total of 4 CDs. Maggart seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The interest is not to be rolled over.

Exploring diagonal parking on Huntington Street

Maggart motioned that the library board not explore this option at present. Murphy seconded. A vote was called on the motion, which passed unanimously with all ayes.

The next meeting is on September 22nd at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned by President Paul at 8:35 PM.

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

SECRETARY APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Peru Public Library
