

Washington District Library Board met on October 19, 2021, and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Linda Fitzgerald.

Members present: Joann Bailey, Deb Dukes, Stacey Morris, Joan Ruppman, Stacy Smith, Shelby Yocum, and Linda Fitzgerald.

Stacy Smith was absent.

Also present: Lexie Walsh (Director)

Recognition of visitors: Gale Thetford, Diane Murphy, Michael S. Murphy, Barb Childers, Jen Miller, Gary Manier, Lada Manier, Terry L. Chandler

Public Comment:

Linda Fitzgerald explained that public comment provides an opportunity to express opinion, and that each individual speaker has the floor for no longer than 3 minutes. Letters from Mr. Mansfield's 7th grade LA classes expressing their desire to keep the Washington Branch Library open were shared with the board. Ms. Gale Thetford of Peoria II, former resident of Sunnyland, expressed her support in keeping the branch open and its continuation of services to the community. Diane Murphy, resident of Sunnyland since 1976 with children, and grandchildren also residing in Sunnyland, expressed value in Sunnyland branch location; for low income family and geriatric visitors, no bus services to main branch for these citizens, and the librarians are helpers, she has created committee to find a solution and avoid nastiness of social media.

Consent Agenda Items

1. Minutes of Meetings
 - a. 08.16.21 Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - b. 09.21.21 Board Meeting
2. Financial Statements
 - a. Check Register—October
 - b. Budget Worksheet—October

Joann Bailey made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Joan Ruppman Seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Deb Dukes, yes; Stacey Morris, yes; Joan Ruppman, yes; Shelby Yocum, yes; Joann Bailey, yes; and Linda Fitzgerald, yes. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – September

The treasurer's report was presented. Linda Fitzgerald asked for the total cost to fix the AC. Lexie responded with \$12,585. Joan Ruppen questioned about additional money spent in the month of September, and Lexie explained that basic wear and tear type updates contributed to costs this month. Overdrive and databases will go live this week. Costs will be reflected in October's treasurer's report.

Stacey Morris made a motion to file the treasurer's report for audit. Deb Dukes seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Stacey Morris, yes; Joan Ruppman, yes; Shelby Yocum, yes; Joann Bailey, yes; Deb Dukes, yes; and Linda Fitzgerald, yes. The motion passed

Director's Report**

Lexie Walsh began her director's report with discussing community outreach and programming; the library will be participating in Boo Bash at the high school. Linda suggested that for future events we hand out consumables such as pencils. FOWL approved their donations toward flash drives for patrons. Allie Dixon's story times have been a huge success as have the Anime Club meetings. Drew is continuing his work in cataloging. Lexie presented the dates of holiday closures explaining there were no new dates added or any removed from previous lists.

Approve 2021 Tax Levy

Lexie is continuing to compile the State Per Capita grant information. Will continue to ask for maximum CPI increase.

Deb Dukes motioned to approve the 2021 Tax Levy. Joan Ruppman seconded. Roll call vote: Joan Ruppman, yes; Shelby Yocum, yes; Linda Fitzgerald, yes; Joann Bailey, yes; Deb Dukes, yes; and Stacey Morris, yes.

Approve 2021 Holiday Party Funds

Deb Dukes motioned to approve the 2021 Holiday party expenses. Joan Ruppman seconded it. Roll call vote: Shelby Yocum, yes; Linda Fitzgerald, yes; Joann Bailey, yes; Deb Dukes, yes; Stacey Morris, yes; and Joan Ruppman, yes.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

WACC Report

There was no WACC report.

Other Discussion

There was no other discussion.

Public Comment

Diane Murphy discussed her interest in being involved with forming a committee from active community participants. Gale Thetford asked that we consider that we are in good shape financially and reminded us that lives changed so much during Covid.

Board Comment

Linda Fitzgerald was impressed by the kindness and respect shared in the public forum on October 12th. Joan Ruppman was touched by the dedication and compromise of so many in the community, and their willingness to help keep the branch location open. Linda expressed the need to get the children involved in Sunnyland, and

the necessity of forming a committee of board members, library employees, and community members to come up with ideas to keep the branch open. Joann Bailey reiterated the importance of attendance at the branch location. Joann Bailey and Deb Dukes expressed interest in being part of the committee. Stacey Morris addressed the financial status of the library; she asked, “If there is no change to the Branch location, what is the projected short fall between revenue and expenses with our current budget? What are the alternative budget cuts that the Finance Committee explored? Are the alternatives sustainable and for how long?” Lexie wanted to look for statistics on the library patrons’ transportation methods to the main branch, the cost per use statistics at the main branch, and the need to identify former statistics. Lexie concluded the meeting by stating that our next step is forming a committee to discuss the future of the branch.

Adjourn

Joann Bailey made a motion to adjourn. Stacey Morris seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Shelby Yocum (Recording Secretary)

***Additional documents available upon request*