

**Humboldt Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 4:30pm**

Present:

Myra Barnett, Linda Hawks, Elna Blankenship, Leon McNeal, Dr. Beverly Youree, Don Farmer, Jenny Gillhan and John Blankenship

Linda opened the meeting. Dr. Youree moved to accept previous minutes seconded by Myra. Minutes approved.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

John gave an update on COVID-19 stating many patrons are not wearing masks and recommended masks be recommended rather than mandated and that maximum number of 30 patrons be allowed in the Library at one time. Leon moved to change wording to recommended with a maximum of 30 patrons. A second was made by Beverly. Motion approved.

John reported the search to fill the Children's Librarian vacancy has been sent to the paper and posted on the library's website. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, May 19th. Three applications, from Trenton, Milan and Medina, have been submitted to date. The position's salary is in the mid \$20,000's with leave and insurance provided. John will conduct the interviews and submit his choice to the Mayor and Aldermen for approval. John invited any Board Member to sit in on the interviews.

John also shared numerous recent activities including furniture upgrades by Friends, replacement of flooring, new Podcast Studio in previous Conference Room closet, new mobile video station, and the formation of Computer Classes.

Regarding the Summer Reading Program, John shared that Joshua and Friends have arranged for an Animal Show and a Magic Show on June 9th and July 1st, respectively. The new Children's Librarian will be able to add programs.

Regarding recommendations for the vacant Board Member position, Leon shared the individual he had discussed is no longer interested due to her recent marriage. Elna recommended Emily Lovings and Leon seconded. Recommendation was approved.

Financial Report:

John gave a financial report, and the special account balance is \$135, 902. 79, to date. A motion was made by Myra to accept the report. A second was made by Don. Motion approved.

Humboldt Public Library Foundation Report:

Elna gave an update regarding "Breaking Ground in 2021" for the new children's library. New bids must be obtained which will likely substantially increase the amount of funds to be raised. Possible fundraising ideas were discussed including a "That's My Brick" Campaign.

Friends of the Library Report:

As previously stated, Friends is providing funds for new furniture and portions of Summer Reading activities. They have also created the “Little Free Library” which is positioned outside the front of the library.

Regional Library Report:

Jenny discussed that updated by-laws are needed for the library. Elna stated bylaws will be on the next agenda. Jenny also reminded the board that Trustees need to take the Trustee Certification Program. A brief discussion regarding the Regional/State Library Service Agreement was held. Linda signed on behalf of the Board. Jenny then shared statistics from the Library Support Rankings by County. Gibson County ranks 24th in the State. READS statistics revealed the library was down a little from 2020, however our reduction was not as great as others in our region. Jenny shared a list of upcoming important dates and trainings. John will attend the Reimagining School Readiness Training and Summer Reading Prep on May 20th.

John complimented the library staff on their teamwork and involvement in new projects and activities. Board Members, likewise, stated their appreciation to John for all the improvements, innovative ideas and leadership he is providing to the betterment of the library.

Linda announced her resignation from the Trustee Board. Members stated they hated to see her leave the Board and expressed their appreciation for her many years of dedicated service to the library.

Don nominated Elna as interim Chairman until the July meeting. Leon gave a second and the nomination was approved.

Jenny shared statewide Regional Office staff will no longer attend Trustee meetings. Board Chairs will become part of the Regional Office Boards. Members expressed regret and stated their appreciation for years of outstanding onsite consultation and input in Board meetings.

A motion was made by Don to adjourn with a second by Leon. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Elna Blankenship

5-14-2021

Approved at Board Meeting – July 6, 2021