

The Humboldt Public Library
Board of Trustees
January 5, 2021

Present:

Linda Hawks, Chair, Elna Blankenship, Secretary, John Blankenship, Trustee, Dr. Youree and Jenny Gillihan, Regional Representatives, Laura Cano, Trustee, Leon McNeal, City Representative, Myra Barnett, Trustee, and Joshua Fisher, Acting Library Director

Linda stated there was a quorum, welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm with a request for approval of previous minutes of November 10, 2020. Elna stated she had failed to type minutes and stated they would be provided as soon as possible.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Joshua reported the library hours are 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at present. No Tuesday evenings or Saturdays at present. The number of patrons is limited to 10 until the end of January with a hold on Tuesday hours until March meeting.

Joshua shared that CARES is done; CJ is working on Chrome books, set up tv monitor to show new releases and set up internet extensions; paying Verizon Hotspot bills monthly to Jenny; and Tech grant is ready for approval from Mayor.

Joshua reported Prestige has provided landscaping services and Frances Raines, a Master Gardener updated the pots.

Financial Report:

There is a current balance of \$134,984.04 after payments for lost book and ads.

Interim Library Director Report:

Joshua shared a lady has been coming to the library and telling patrons she works here which has caused complaints. Dr. Youree shared the same type thing occurred at another library which resulted in the lady being banned from the library. Laura will conduct an impromptu visit to explore the situation and refer to the Police Department if necessary.

Foundation Report:

Elna shared the Foundation received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 for the building fund. The Foundation Board is currently not meeting.

Friends Report:

Pat Barnett reported Friends is currently in limbo, but continues to try to enhance activities of the library. They arranged for Master Gardeners to upkeep the front of the library. They are continuing to discuss changing out furniture in the lobby. Funding for the Summer Reading Program and Bucket Program is covered.

Regional Library Report:

Jenny stated she has have severe technological difficulties and requested assistance from John to deliver her report.

Highlights:

- Need to update bylaws;

- Need to reschedule orientation for Laura;
- New program for anyone in TN to learn a new language FREE! **Transparent Language Online**. Sarah has put it on Facebook;
- Application deadline for **Top Grant 2021** is in February - provides digital literacy training for patrons - can be online and/or recorded. It expands services not covered in CARES Grant. Library will move forward;
- Mayoral Breakfast will not be held in person. Instead, packets will be provided for lawmakers reflecting how the library has impacted the community and emphasizing the importance of the library. Packets are needed by the end of January. John will forward packets to our lawmakers. R.E.A.D.S Circulation has gone up! John will forward documents.
- Reviewed Upcoming Dates

Library Director Search:

Linda stated the Board needed to proceed with the process to select a new director. Leon objected to the educational qualifications approved by the Board on November 10, 2020. Discussion ended with Linda stating she would forward the November 10th meeting notes and suggested dates and times to review applicants.

Linda requested a motion to adjourn. Elna so moved and Dr. Youree offered a second. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elna Blankenship, Secretary

*Meeting recorded live on Humboldt Public Library FaceBook page