

MINUTES

The **Rogers Library Board of Trustees** met for a regular session on January 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by .

VIRTUAL MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Meeting Instructions

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89488771314>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13017158592,,89488771314# or +13126266799,,89488771314#

Or Telephone:

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Webinar ID: 894 8877 1314

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89488771314>

Virtual Participation

- Library staff and Trustees are the only visible attendees. All attendees are automatically muted and invisible to others upon entry. Staff will enable/disable talk for each speaker.
- If representing an agenda item or speaking in a public hearing:
 - o Click Raise Hand when prompted by the chairman. Staff will enable speaking for your presentation and disable speaking when done.
 - o Dial *9 Raise Hand if attending meeting by phone.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Richard Bland, Stephen Hardin, Cindy Holmer, Judy Tobler, Brice Wagner

Present Not Voting: Caroline Smith

- Brice Wagner will run the meeting as acting President.

RPL Present: Sami Espenschied, Hannah Norris Milligan, Joy Poynor

City of Rogers Present: Jennifer Moore

PUBLIC FORUM:

None present.

FOUNDATION BOARD:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- There was not a December 2021 meeting. This report is from the November 2021 meeting.
- Reviewed Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.
 - Some board members were concerned that this collection was not diverse enough.
- A fundraiser was held at On the Border (restaurant) on December 23, 2021 -- 20% of receipts went to the RPL Foundation.
- They graciously gifted all RPL staff with cardigans with the RPL logo embroidered on them.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- The main topic of discussion was their expiring Friendly Bookstore lease.
 - The lease ends in either March or April 2022.
 - It will be in the Palmer Violin building on Popular Street.
- They approved a grant for SRC 2022 (Summer Reading Club).

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. Approval of November 16, 2021 Board Minutes.
Motion by Richard Bland to approve the November 2021 minutes.
Second by Steve Hardin.
Approved unanimously.
2. No minutes to approve for December 2021 as no meeting was held.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Considered adjusting some funds from print materials budget to downloadables (i.e., eBooks, eAudiobooks, and other electronic resources).

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- There has been a slow increase in Young Adults and Children's to year-end.
- Electronic Resources remain steady checkouts.
 - Hoopla has skyrocketed. Borrows are instant. The library pays per borrows. Was four borrows, now six borrows per month. Borrows can be movies, eBooks, eAudiobooks, etc. Keep item for two weeks (like Libby). Schools have been using for when everyone (in a class) reads the same book. There's a Hoopla app that you can download.
 - Brice Wagner requests a Hoopla lesson at our next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Staff Updates
 - Systems Manager Hisham Makki resigned. His last day was January 3, 2022.
 - Multicultural Librarian Tatiana Morales resigned. Her last day was in early December 2021.
 - There is about 1-year left on this grant. Hannah wants to request that the City make this position permanent.
 - We have received three great applicants and hope to at least set up phone interviews soon.
 - Heath Lance passed away in November 2021, leaving his Library Assistant III position in Technical Services open.
 - Technical Services Supervisor Nelwyn Anderson and Hannah Norris Milligan started interviews today to fill Heath's position.
- Received another CARES grant. This one reimburses RPL for monies spent on electronic resources during COVID-19 (i.e., March 2020 - December 2021).
- Hannah will be meeting with Rogers Public Schools' Library Media Specialists to understand their students' library needs and to remind them of the Student eCard opportunities.
- Completed staff annual evaluations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

1. Update of formal challenge of "Lawn Boy" by Jonathan Evison.
 - Regarding the reconsideration of this specific library material, the committee decided to keep this material in the Adult Fiction and Adult Large Print sections of the library.
 - The patron did not request an appeal.
 - Hannah Norris Milligan met with the LDD1 (Library Directors of Division 1) librarians. They discussed how it seems to be a recent trend in Arkansas to challenge books.
 - Cindy Holmer asked for clarification after reading the email that the patron's concern was the subject matter and that the patron felt the material had a very graphic description of the subject matter. Then asked if RPL has a warning for "graphic" similar to a "R rating" for

movies.

- Hannah Norris Milligan explained that we encourage parents and guardians to monitor what their children checkout, but that we (library staff) cannot keep them from checking certain materials out if the parent or guardian has granted permission when signing them up for a library card.

2. Discussion of City of Lowell patrons to be considered as resident status.

- Hannah Norris Milligan reported that back in November 2021, Mayor Hines discussed with her that the Mayor of Lowell had offered up to \$30,000 for RPL to consider Lowell households as Rogers residents for library cards.
- We ran a list of 2021 RPL Lowell patrons.
 - 2,599 patrons in our system. It is likely that some live in the same household and our library cards are \$15.00/household for non-residents.
- Requesting the Board's thoughts about this proposal.
- Hannah Norris Milligan stated that she has not clarified with Mayor Hines if this is to reoccur because our Non-Resident patrons renew annually at \$15.00/household.
 - For example, (Beaver) lake residents and Little Flock residents are both outside of the Rogers city limits.
- Brice Wagner expressed concern about an increase in Lowell's population moving forward.
- Judy Tobler stated that we need to confirm the household count.
- Steve Hardin asked if Lowell has a similar agreement with Springdale (Public Library).
- Hannah Norris Milligan stated that Lowell residents pay \$25.00/household to have library cards at Springdale.
- Brice Wagner restated that the next step is to get the household count.
- Judy Tobler agreed.
- Hannah Norris Milligan stated that Circulation Manager Dessie Wewers calculated the total number of Lowell, RPL patron households to be 84. Hannah wants to calculate the pre-COVID pandemic numbers (2019 and 2018) as there were several months that we did not accept renewals by mail.

3. Board vacancies

- Caroline Smith's term was up on December 31, 2021. Caroline has agreed to renew her position. We will need to swear her back into office.
- Judy Tobler expressed that she feels the Board should not expect the new, incoming Board member to be President (even though it was the Presidential slot that opened up).

Motion by Judy Tobler for Brice Wagner to be the 2022 RPL Board of Trustees President.

Second by Steve Hardin.

Approved unanimously.

- The Board agreed to wait until Caroline Smith is reinstated to see if she would like to be

Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2022 Budget

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- FY 2022 Budget is in your packet.
- Hannah did not change amounts much from the FY 2021 Budget.
- Building and Grounds items will be covered by the Energy Audit (grant).
- Category B - Furniture to replace the 1993 chairs and tables that are faded and stained.
- New media items because we were recording videos frequently. They will be sustainable items of high quality and have a long-life.
- Brice Wagner expressed concerns about the appearance of the building exterior and landscaping.

Motion by Steve Hardin to accept the budget as submitted.

Second by Judy Tobler.

Approved unanimously.

2. Reminder that Trustees must be sworn in-person.

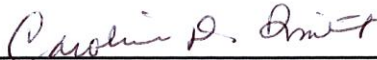
ADJOURN:

Motion by Cindy Holmer to adjourn at 7:37pm.

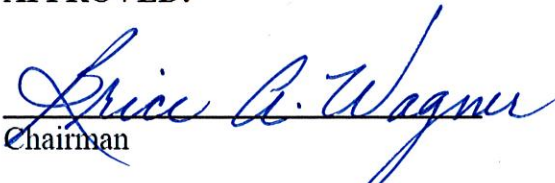
Seconded by Richard Bland.

Approved unanimously.

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED:


Chairman