

MINUTES

The **Rogers Library Board of Trustees** met for a regular session *Friends of the RPL Community Room* 711 S. Dixieland Rd / Rogers, AR 72758 on October 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by .

ROLL CALL:

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

Board Not Present: Caroline Smith

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

City Hall Present: John Pesek, Thomas Dunlap

PUBLIC FORUM:

- Board President Brice Wagner reminded the public that, "Patrons asking to speak to the Board must qualify by holding a current Library Board." He also referred to Article 9 of the Board of Trustees Bylaws. It says, "as part of this agenda, the Board shall provide a period not to exceed 15 minutes at the beginning of the Board, the order of business, citizens can comment. Citizens should indicate their desire to speak to the President, who will allot a 15 minute period equally among the persons speaking. The person addressing the Board shall limit comments to items within the jurisdiction of the Library Board of Trustees. No action will be taken on public comments at the forum at this meeting." And no comments will be allowed regarding the book challenge as it is on tonight's agenda and a vote will be taken on it at a later time tonight. Is there anyone who would like to address the Board?
- No response.
- Hannah Norris Milligan requested the Board move the vote on the book challenge (Old Business) up to the next item on the agenda.
- Board President Brice Wagner agreed.

See "Old Business" section.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. Approval of September 20, 2022 Board Minutes

Motion by Cindy Holmer, second by Stephen Hardin to Approve the September 20, 2022, minutes with the correction that Richard Bland was not present at that meeting.

Approved unanimously.

FOUNDATION BOARD:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Top Chef tickets are still available online.
 - Discussion of where the event has been publicized.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Friends President Carol McCuchean is not here tonight as she had a prior event at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art tonight.
- It is Friends Week this week.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. Financials ending September 30, 2022

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Natural Gas is now \$200 versus \$2,000 (when we were having issues).
- Walmart Inclusion Grant.
 - Extended until December 31, 2022 for spending funds.
 - Asking some of the Latinx Advisory Committee members for material purchasing suggestions for eBook and Audiobook titles in Spanish.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Judy Tobler commented that participation is starting upward.
- Hannah Norris Milligan agreed with Judy and added that in almost every department that participation has increased. Additionally, we have had an increase in patron registrations, almost 50% increase over last year same time (September). Spanish print materials' circulation is up. Since we've added Hoopla (electronic resource), which added movies, we have a significant increase for digital and downloaded movies and music in circulation.
- Brice Wagner asked if Hannah could see how many people use Hoopla.
- Hannah Norris Milligan replied, "Yes, that's on page 19 (see Circulation Comparison Report)."
- Sami Espenschied noted the legend for that report is on the right-hand side. She had to move it from directly below the Electronic Resources numbers.
- Hannah Norris Milligan noted that Fayetteville Public Library allows 10 or 11 titles to be checked out. We allow 6 titles.
- Joy Poynor confirmed this is correct.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Children's Assistant Director Emily Snodgrass attended the ALSC (Association for Library Services for Children Institute) Conference which was paid by the Friends of RPL.
- Hired the 29HR/Week Library Assistant II position in Children's.

- Multicultural Librarian Rosa has been out, but will return to work soon.
- Emerging Technologies Librarian Amber is trying to get our new electronic signage to work. The code/instructions were in a foreign language.
- Our Strategic Plan expired in 2021. We will be bringing a new one at some point.
- Working on Disaster Planning.
- The new HVAC (exterior) system is almost complete. (It services air to the Community Room and the Children's Library.)
- RPL will participate in the City of Rogers' Christmas Parade.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Decision regarding materials challenge

- Brice Wagner stated, "From what I can see, we have 5 options tonight. One of which we will vote on.
 1. We can leave the challenged book in the regular shelves in the Children's library.
 2. We can move it to a Parent Resources Shelf in the Children's library.
 3. We can move it to the Young Adult (teen) section, which is 13-18 year olds.
 4. We can move it to the Adult section.
 5. We can withdraw the book from our collection."
- Brice continued, "Normally we need to have a motion before we have a discussion, but I think we need to discuss these items before motioning."
- John Pesek noted that they can discuss before a motion.
- Brice Wagner requested any discussion from the Board members.
- Judy Tobler requested the options be read one more time.
- Brice Wagner read the options again.
- Richard Bland asked if we have a Parents Resource section now or would we have to create one.
- Hannah Norris Milligan answered that we would have to create one that we did once have a section for this, but no longer.
- Steve Hardin asked how it would operate if we added the section.
- Hannah Norris Milligan answered that this is another topic that we would have to discuss with the Board and the librarians. The Parent Resource shelf that we had previously had resources like education, health, homeschooling, and similar topics. We assimilated most of those (materials) into the Adult collection.
- Brice Wagner asked how accessible is that to children. For example, you have the Parent section in the Children's library; and, the children in the Children's section. Can the children access that (the Parent section).
- Hannah Norris Milligan affirmed, "Yes (can access)." Then added, "but, with anything in this library, we leave it up to the parents to monitor what their children are exposed to."
- Brice Wagner asked for confirmation that the Young Adult section is physically located in a different area of the library.
- Hannah Norris Milligan confirmed, "Yes."
- Judy Tobler discussed her research on the book. Regarding her question about putting it in the 13-18 (Young Adult) section, the book was intended for younger children by the author and the people who are involved in publishing that book. Her concern is that it would not fit in the Young Adult area. Judy feels that would need to be discussed and stated, "it (the book) says 8-10 was the intended ages to have it read."
- Brice Wagner continued, "Being in the Young Adult section, would it be accessible to parents if they

- wanted to go in there unless they knew about it?"
- Hannah Norris Milligan confirmed, "Yes. It would be accessible to parents."
 - Brice Wagner asked if parents would have to be browsing through the Young Adult section to locate the book and if parents browse the Young Adult section.
 - Hannah Norris Milligan confirmed, "Yes and they do."
 - Judy Tobler asked, "Parents that come in with those younger children, could they do the same thing? Check with their children on what they're looking at."
 - Hannah Norris Milligan stated that she doesn't monitor those actions. "We recommend that whenever we have a patron sign up for a library card. Open an account."
 - Cindy Holmer stated and asked, "But, a Parent Resource section is in the realm of possibility. It would be doable. Right?"
 - Hannah Norris Milligan confirmed, "Yes."
 - Judy Tobler asked, "What would be the regulations for it?"
 - Cindy Holmer asked if that is something we would have to come up with.
 - Hannah Norris Milligan answered, "We would have to revisit that and our Collection Development Policy." She asked Joy if she would speak to this topic since Joy was Assistant Children's Director when we did have a Parent Resource section.
 - Joy Poynor stated, "When I worked here before, in 2008 - 2015, we had that section. It was filled, during my time, with what Hannah already mentioned. There were also books on like if you just had a baby, how to help them fall asleep, like new parent resources. It was in the Children's section. Normally, parents did not know it was there. And, I would have to mention it to them and take them to that section. So, we would have to set up a special area for it and we'd have to decide which books we'd want to put in that section."
 - Brice Wagner asked if the section was labeled as Parent Resource.
 - Joy Poynor affirmed, "Yes," and added, "during my time it (the materials) had a special sticker that said that."
 - Cindy Holmer requested clarification if Joy meant a sticker on each book in the collection.
 - Joy Poynor affirmed, "Yes."
 - Steve Hardin asked, "For my information, would that mean a child could only get that book with a parent's permission or would it still be accessible to children?"
 - Hannah Norris Milligan answered, "It would still be accessible, as is everything that we have in the library."
 - Brice Wagner asked if there was any other discussion.
 - Silence.
 - Brice Wagner stated, "I would entertain a motion that we choose one of these, second, discuss it, then vote on it. I'm open for a motion from the Board."

**Motion by Cindy Holmer to make a special Parent Resource section and put this book in that section.
Second by None. Fail/Deny.**

- Brice Wagner stated, "We have a motion by Cindy. Do we have a second?"
- Silence.
- Brice Wagner stated, "Okay. Without a second, we cannot move forward on that motion. So, is there any further discussion about these options?" (9:18)
- Debbie Woehr asked, "I hate to ask you to read those once again, but would you?"
- Brice Wagner replied, "Sure. No problem." And, he read the 5 options again.

- Richard Bland stated, "We've got to start somewhere." And, he made a motion.

Motion by Richard Bland to leave it in the Children's section where it is. Second by Judy Tobler.

- Brice Wagner asked for any other discussion on not all of the options, but only the motion to leave the book in the Children's section.
- No one offered discussion.
- Brice Wagner confirmed that as President he is allowed to comment, then said, "My personal feeling is that it was written for children; but, I feel like it's pretty intent for children like my granddaughters. I think it's a book more to be used by parents in helping their children understand what the issues are about. That parent can then decide and be discriminating on what they want to share with the parent (child). They don't have to read it page-to-page or from beginning to end. They can be discriminating. So, in that regard, I think it's too abrupt for children ages 0-12. That's (age range) what our Children's section is for. So, that's my opinion on it. Any other discussion?"
- Cindy Holmer agreed, "That is also my opinion. I think it needs to be under the parents' responsibility to use it as a resource which is what the committee that came up with in defense of this book at our last meeting. Identified it as a resource for parents to go over with their children. And I think it should be considered as such. I think I agree with exactly what you were saying Brice."
- Judy Tobler asked, "Brice, were you suggesting moving it to the 13 and above or to moving it to the Parent section?"
- Brice Wagner answered, "I'm suggesting that we have it at least at the Parent section. I would not be in favor of having it (in the) Children's section just open to everybody. And I know she (Hannah) said that everything is open in our library. Where a child can go over here and get an adult book. Right? I think if it was adequately, had adequate signage, 'Parent Section'. I think that would discourage a lot of kids from even going over there to see what it is. Even a 12-year old, in my opinion, or if I was a 12-year old and I saw 'Parent Section', I probably wouldn't even give it another look. I would move on to what I was interested in. So, I would be more willing to approve that than I would leave it in the Children's section. (13:00) Any other discussion?"
- Steve Hardin commented, "I don't think we ought to move the collection completely. It does have...I share your concern that I don't know that it's appropriate for all children; but, I also have a concern that there may be children that it would be appropriate for that the parents would not want them to see it, but they really do need it. I don't want the parents to ban something that would be beneficial to children. So, I'm going to ask two questions: (1) Is there a recommendation from the library staff as to what we do with it?"
- Hannah Norris Milligan replied, "That was addressed in the reviews that we presented to you all in last month's Board packet with the Challenge Committee. And, the majority decision was to retain it (the book) in its designated area."
- Brice Wagner asked Steve, "And your second question?"
- Steve Hardin asked, "Can I second Cindy's motion after the fact?"
- Brice Wagner replied, "I think we have to have another motion since we already have one on the floor."
- Debbie Woehr commented, "It seems to me that the book was designed for children. Not necessarily for adults. Although, I think any adult with children that young would want to supervise what their children are looking at. And if they don't want them to read it, then that's their prerogative. But, I think kids sometimes, depending on their maturity level, they may be interested in this book and want to look at it. I feel like it ought to be available somehow."
- Cindy Holmer commented, "Correct me if I'm wrong, but even if we have a Parent Resource section and the book is there. The child does not have to have their parent's permission to check a book out from that collection. Is that correct?"
- Hannah Norris Milligan replied, "Correct."

- Cindy Holmer continued, "Right. They would still have access to it."
- Hannah Norris Milligan reminded, "We do encourage parents to be involved in everything that their child is checking out and to monitor what they're checking out and what they do in the library."
- Cindy Holmer continued, "So it (the book) would still be accessible. It would just. There would be a little bit of a barrier for parents who are, maybe cautious. That are a little bit more about supervising their children and what they checkout and what they're reading. So, I don't know that that's a concern at this point. It's whether we're going to keep it as it is (in Children's section) or..."
- Brice Wagner stated, "Right now the motion stands as that we leave it in the Children's section as is. We have a motion on the floor. We have a second, but we're not ready to vote I don't believe. If there's any more discussion? If there's no more discussion, then we are ready to vote." (16:30)
- No discussion.
- Brice Wagner stated, "Alright, the motion is that we leave it (the book) in the Children's library as is. In order for Sami to get down the proper vote, I'd ask for a voice vote tonight individually. So, at this time, all those in favor, starting with Steve (at one end of the tables)."

Motion by Richard Bland, Seconded by Judy Tobler, Action: Approve

Voice Vote:

Yes: Richard Bland, Judy Tobler, Debbie Woehr

No: Stephen Hardin, Cindy Holmer

Abstain: Brice Wagner

Motion approved.

- Brice Wagner did not vote because there was not a tie to be broken.
- Brice Wagner offered for the public in attendance to stay if they wanted or not. The meeting continued after the majority of the public left.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Decision for 17th Century indenture artict loaned to U of A

Presented by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Mullins Library at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (U of A) has a 17th Century sheepskin that was loaned by RPL in 1968.
- Mullins is undergoing renovation soon and needs us to decide what to do with this item before then.
- Serena of the Rogers Historical Museum recommends that we give it to the U of A permanently as they nor we (RPL) have the appropriate storage facilities for this item.
- Hannah Norris Milligan agrees with Serena and requests the Board of Trustees approve this request.

Motion by Stephen Hardin, second by Cindy Holmer to Approve transferring permanent ownership of the afore mentioned sheepskin to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Approved unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Cindy Holmer, second by Richard Bland to Adjourn.

Approved unanimously.

ATTEST:

Carolyn D. Smith
Secretary

APPROVED:

Brian A. Wagner
Chairman