

The Rogers Public Library Commission met in a regular session in the Glotzbecker Conference Room at the Rogers Public Library, Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Caroline Smith, Giuliana Tartarini-Fields, Judy Tobler, & Brice Wagner.

STAFF:

Judy Casey, Library Director
Hannah Norris Milligan, Assistant Director
Sami Espenschied, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Moore, COR Records Administrator

FRIENDS REPRESENTATIVE:

None present

FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE:

None present

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

None present

PRESS:

None present

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC FORUM:

None present.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Read by Judy Casey.

NEW (SPECIAL) BUSINESS

Reported by Judy Casey.

- Governor Asa Hutchinson lifted the state-wide mandate for masks today; but, he has kept and the legislature has supported the Emergency Act for another two (2) months.
- City of Rogers Mayor Greg Hines announced this afternoon after the Governor's announcement that the City of Rogers would retain the mask mandate for Rogers as the school district has to be in cooperation with the school district to retain that, so that will remain in place through the end of the emergency clause for the state or until the City Council withdraws that ordinance.
- CDC is recommending masks very strongly and has asked that states not lift it (the mask mandate).
- Current COVID-19 numbers were provided. Only one (1) new case in Benton County last night.
- Background to explain why the timelines are being asking for regarding the increase in hours:
 - We have four (4) Circulation vacancies as of last night. We have filled one who will start on April 19. Pending background checks on three (3) others.
 - The majority of our staff will have received their second dose of the vaccine this Thursday.
 - We need to get these positions filled so additional support out front is available to meet those needs better and staff are more protected.

PROPOSAL

- **Open Hours Increase to:**
 - 10:00am – 6:00pm Monday through Thursday
 - 10:00am – 4:00pm Friday and Saturday
 - Judy Casey hopes that we can resume to our (old) normal hours in June 2021. If numbers continue to go down and people continue to get vaccinated, then we can increase those hours.
 - May come back and evaluate Sundays during the summer because Sundays are slower in the summer.
 - We may ask you to dedicate that staff during the week to make sure we can open until 9:00pm Monday through Thursday, but we want to see how the process goes.
- **Computer Usage Availability.**
 - We want to increase computer usage. We are not going to open all computers because the space that we have to put them is difficult to keep clean and to give people a little more space between computers. We will increase the number available.
- **Seating available.** We had put up (away) all seating. We would like to make available some hard seating that's easier to clean.
- **Public restrooms** will be open.
- **Children's computers.** Children's has asked that we put up two (2) tables in their area right in front of their desk: one for a laptop for use and the other a place where homeschool parents can get together with just a single family.

- **Tutoring Rooms** remain closed until we see how things go.
- **In-person Programs.**
 - No (in person) programming (continued) for now.
 - We hope to start limited in person programming in June 2021 where we can control the number of people in a limited area as long as the CDC and AHD (Arkansas Dept. of Health) numbers do not increase again or they do not recommend.
- **Temperature Checks.** We will continue to take the temperatures of patrons. It will be the automatic temperature (machine).
- **Front Doors to Auto Open.** Return the electronic main entry doors to automatic open/close.
- **Curbside Service (continue).** With your approval, we will continue curbside service for those people who prefer not to come inside.
- **Quarantine Materials (continue)** because this is still what the ALA (American Library Association) and OCLC recommend.
- With your approval, we would like to try our recommendation to see if we are addressing all of the issues.
- **Patrons in the Building.**
 - We may be able to let more people in, but would like to start with 46 patrons as we have a few tight areas in shelves to keep people distanced and to handle materials. If it goes well, we can increase the number in the building at one time.
- **Appointments.**
 - Required (continued) for computer usage.
 - Not required to enter the building, but we will still encourage people to make appointments to ensure space availability.
 - With your permission and approval we will announce that starting April 19, 2021, we will not require, but encourage appointments to come into the building. However, computer usage will require an appointment and masks required, limit of 46 patrons.
- Judy Tobler referred back to the letter from a lady who refused to have temperature taken and did not want to wear a mask. What will we do about patrons like her? Tobler expressed gratitude to Mayor Hines for keeping the mask mandate and concern that since Governor Hutchinson lifted the mandate that we will have issues with incoming patrons who do not want to wear a mask.
- Judy Casey explained that as long as the City of Rogers has the mask mandate, we have the mask mandate.
- Judy Tobler asked if we have a sign-in sheet (contact tracing).
- Judy Casey will have to ask if contact tracing is still mandatory. She will discuss with Mayor Hines. RPL is set up for either direction that we are permitted to go (taking temperatures and log or not). Most people who come in are either wanting to use a computer or checkout materials.
- Brice Wagner had hoped for more, agrees this is workable and reasonable. He was hoping that we were going to be more generous.
- Judy Casey hopes that we can open more on June 1, 2021.
- Cindy Holmer asked why we're still quarantining materials.

- Judy Casey answered that it's a guideline from ALA and OCLC because it's been proven that the (COVID-19) virus remains on the surface materials for several days.

Motion by Brice Wagner that we follow this guideline with the hopes that we can expedite anything we can.

Second by Judy Tobler.

Approved unanimously by all Board Members in attendance.

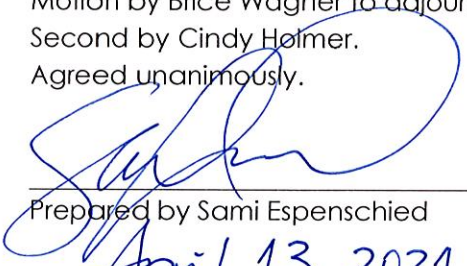
- Judy Casey expressed her thanks to the Board and that we (RPL) want to move forward. She would rather take things in small increments than too fast and have to backtrack.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brice Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 6:19p.m.

Second by Cindy Holmer.

Agreed unanimously.



Prepared by Sami Espenschied

Date

April 13, 2021



Approved

Date

4/18/21