

MINUTES

The **Rogers Library Board of Trustees** met for a regular session 711 S Dixieland Road Rogers, AR 72758 on February 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by .

ROLL CALL:

Present: Brice Wagner, Richard Bland, Stephen Hardin, Caroline Smith, Cindy Holmer

Not Present: Judy Tobler

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

City Hall Present: Jennifer Moore, Kay Ricker, Jessica Rush

PUBLIC FORUM:

No public in attendance.

OATHS OF OFFICE :

- Swearing in of Board Members present by City Clerk Jessica Rush; and certificates distributed.
- Kay Ricker distributed thank you gifts from the City to each board member.

Steve Hardin nominated Caroline Smith for Secretary.

Motion was made and seconded.

Approved unanimously.

FOUNDATION BOARD:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- No January meeting due to technical issues (Zoom).
- Partnership with United Way and The Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
 - Hannah spoke with RPLF Executive Director Brenda Majors regarding Brenda working with RPL Children's Director on this project.
- Approved a \$700 grant for RPL to host a jazz flutest program on February 12 by Galen Abdur-Razzaq.
- Top Chef 2022 event: considering a date in October.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- The Friendly Bookstore is moving to a new location: 114 West Popular (Rogers, AR).

- The new 3-year lease begins March 1, 2022.
- Cindy Holmer asked if they are accepting moving volunteers.
- New Officers:
 - Carol McCutcheon, President
 - Diane Cook, Vice President
 - Diane Rennell, Secretary
 - Gina Scott, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. Approval of January 18, 2022 Board Minutes
 Motion by Steve Hardin to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting.
 Second by Richard Bland.
 Approved unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

No discussion.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Outreach Update
 - No outreach numbers as our Multicultural Librarian resigned. She was our main outreach.
 - Children's and Young Adult outreach and numbers are down because COVID-19 numbers are up.
- A board member asked what Hoopla is. Hannah explained that it is similar to OverDrive's Libby app but offers music and movies as well as eBooks and eAudiobooks.
 - Richard Bland noted that he really likes Hoopla.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Reported by Hannah Norris Milligan.

- Last month was very challenging due to staff either having COVID or being exposed to COVID (i.e., several staff outages).
- ASL (Arkansas State Library) informed us that we would be receiving 20 cases of COVID-19 Rapid Tests.
 - Hannah Norris Milligan and Joy Poynor put a distribution plan together.
 - City Attorney suggested that RFD distribute.
 - RFD distributed for us at Fire Station #1, then at RHS (twice).
 - Over 4,000 kits total were distributed.

- Open Positions
 - Systems Manager
 - Not a lot of qualified applicants.
 - We need more IT education/experience as this position is heavy in IT.
 - Need a graduate degree in Library Science or comparable field.
 - This position is third in command.
 - The job is posted on the City of Rogers website, Indeed.com, Amigos job board, ALA (American Library Association) job board, and ArLA (Arkansas Library Association) job board.
 - The public computers keep freezing up; but City IT has been coming over to help us.
 - Multicultural Librarian I
 - Have one applicant that is not qualified.
 - A second applicant, is concerned about outreach, which is a major portion of this position.
 - Third applicant has an interview this Thursday.
 - Fourth applicant will have a phone interview first to confirm they are still interested.
 - Library Assistant III - Cataloging
 - Brice Wagner asked how things are going in regards to filling Heath Lance's position.
 - We have interviewed 6 internal candidates.
 - Current Children's Library Assistant II (part-time) Shelby Spears has accepted the position.
 - Children's Library Assistant II (29HR) is now open.
- Elementary School Librarians Meeting
 - We will send them our monthly calendar of events.
 - Boosting eResources with the students.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Hannah Norris Milligan reported:

- There are numbers in your board packets. Included are household numbers -- they will need to be updated.
- Followed-up with Mayor Hines. This is not a set \$30,000, but would fluctuate with the number of patrons from Lowell using RPL

The board discussed:

- We need to consider people moving -- perhaps from Lowell to Rogers.
- Hannah reminded the board that currently our \$15.00/household Non-Resident fee could equal 5 people in a household.

- Joy Poynor noted that there's a new Amazon warehouse being built in Lowell which could increase new residents.
- Student Non-Residents attend Rogers schools, but don't live in the Rogers city limits. The Friends of RPL fund these \$2.00/student cards.
- Brice Wagner requests that we clarify if this is reoccurring and if so, will they adjust the \$30,000?
- Hannah stated that she would like to meet with the Mayor of Lowell.
- Brice Wagner asked if there would be a dividing line for south Lowell (to go to Springdale PL)?
- Steve Hardin asked if we would receive their property tax (since Rogers residents' library cards are included in their taxes)?
- Hannah noted that Lowell residents currently do not pay a tax as they do not have a library.
- Brice Wagner asked Hannah what questions she would like ask both mayors.
- Hannah replied, "All the specifics."
- The board discussed this issue more.
- Cindy Holmer expressed concern for lake residents (out of Rogers city limits).
- Hannah reminded that these households are currently considered Non-Residents.
- Sami Espenschied asked, "Could we simply invoice Lowell for households that actually sign up?"
- Brice Wagner added that it could be a monthly invoice.
- Sami Espenschied added, "or let Lowell reimburse their residents?"

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURN:

ATTEST:

Caren D. Smith
Secretary

APPROVED:

Brice A. Wagner
Chairman