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JOHNSTON LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

January 16, 2020

The Johnston Public Library Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020, in the Archive Room. Present were Katie Fiala, Dan Marvin, Robert Marvin, Kelly McAlister, Megan Tooker, Director Eric Melton and Assistant Director Molly Guerra.

Approve Agenda

Fiala moved to approve the agenda. Robert Marvin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Citizen Comment

- A library user said that the Beaver Creek Book Return is helpful.
- The read alike bookmarks received a compliment.
- A visitor keeps returning to JPL because "other libraries do not make me feel alive."
- American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) complimented our meeting rooms.
- There was a request for a drive up book return at the library.

Meeting Minutes of the November Meeting

Fiala moved to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2019, meeting with the correction that Melton was not present at the meeting. Robert Marvin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Meeting Room Doors Invoice - \$3,865.37

Melton presented an invoice for installing two locking doors to the Large Meeting Room Closets to provide additional storage and to house new AV equipment for the meeting room. McAlister moved to approve the invoice for \$3,865.37. The motion was seconded by Robert Marvin and unanimously approved.

Approve Bills

Library claims for the month totaled \$20,846.97 with city back charges of \$132.59. Robert Marvin moved for approval of the library claims and back charges. The motion was seconded by Kelly McAlister and unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Budget and Finance Month-End

- With 50% of the year passed, spending represented 50% of the budget at \$699,950.
- At the end of December 2019, the Library Trust balance was \$56,548.36.

Statistics

Melton reported that December 2019 circulation increased by 1.7% from the same month last year. PC sessions decreased by 15.1% from usage in December of 2019.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Building & Grounds

- a. Wall paper has been installed in the Story Time Room's west wall. The next steps in the mini remodel of that space is reupholstering the lounge chairs and installing a tile backsplash.
- b. Restroom Remodel
 - i. The restroom remodel will begin March 2nd and could extend to March 27th although the installer says he may complete it a week early.
 - ii. The wall tile originally selected is no longer available. The closest match will increase the overall price of the tile and installation by \$1,763.76 to \$41,469.47.
 - iii. The restroom counter quote presented and approved as part of the restroom remodel at the November meeting was a slightly out of date. Melton was provided a new quote by CKF that is \$125.22 more than the previous quote.

Programs

- a. Virtual Reality Vacation, Saturday, January 25th, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Sign up for a 15 minute session with the HTC Vive virtual reality headset. Take a virtual vacation with Google Earth, swim in the ocean without getting wet or try out any of the library's other VR games.
- b. Creating The Black Utopia Of Buxton, Iowa With Author Rachele Chase, Saturday, February 8th, 10:30 a.m.
Some have called Buxton, Iowa a Black Utopia. In the town of five thousand residents, established in 1900, African Americans and Caucasians lived, worked and attended school together. It was a thriving, one-of-a-kind coal mining town created by the Consolidation Coal Company. This inclusive approach provided opportunity for its residents. Dr. E.A. Carter was the first African American to get a medical degree from the University of Iowa in 1907. He returned to Buxton and was hired by the coal company, where he treated both black and white patients. Attorney George Woodson ran for file clerk in the Iowa Senate for the Republican Party in 1898, losing to a white man by one vote. Author Rachele Chase will detail these amazing events that created this unique community, even in the midst of segregation, Jim Crow, and the Ku Klux Klan, and what ultimately made Buxton disappear.
- c. DNA and Genealogy With The Iowa Genealogical Society, Saturday, February 22nd, 10:30 a.m.
Theresa Liewer is a former president of the Iowa Genealogical Society and moderates the monthly DNA Interest Group that meets at IGS. She'll discuss the three DNA tests - Y, mtDNA and Autosomal - and the major testing companies, plus view real results on the various websites. She'll also talk about questions that regularly occur, including why the ancestry from tests sometimes doesn't match up with what you know to be your family story. Theresa will also discuss privacy issues you should consider, finding matches with close relatives and conversely, who are these close relatives I've never heard of before. Registration is appreciated at this free event.

Foundation

- a. The Lions Club Book Sale will be held at the library this year from Thursday, February 27th through Saturday, February 29th.

- b. Some members of the Johnston Arts Council have salvaged a sculpture from the old Wallace Elementary that they'd like to restore and install outside the library. It will go in the patch of landscaping outside the meeting hallway exit doors.

Staff

Megan Sockness, Youth Services Librarian, and Melton have begun interviews for the Youth Services Assistant Librarian position. There were 38 applicants and eight will be interviewed. After the initial round of interviews, there will be a second round of interviews where Jessica Young, Assistant Librarian, will be included.

Strategic Plan

Melton presented an update on the objectives listed in the FY19-24 strategic plan. .

COMMENTS

Fiala mentioned that there was a free Pete the Cat concert at Wallace Elementary on January 20th. With no further business, McAlister moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. It was seconded by Robert Marvin and unanimously approved.