

Whitman County Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Whitman County Library, Colfax
October 22, 2019

Present: Heather Lustig, Kristie Kirkpatrick, Steve Balzarini, Suzanne Schmick, Bob Bates, Cindy Alred, and Shirley Cornelius

Board Chair Suzanne Schmick called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

New Business:

Board members were given a copy of the Library's current Strategic plan, mission and goals to review before the November meeting. They set a goal of updating it fairly quickly if possible.

October Library Supporter of the month is the Rialto Tavern in St. John who has long supported local library programs like summer reading and semi-monthly Trivia.

The University of Washington I-School (Master of Library and Information Science) has submitted a research grant proposal to develop curriculum for rural library staff to teach citizens how to identify misinformation. We should hear next spring if the project is selected.

A preliminary 2020 budget was presented by Shirley to the board. The final version will be presented for approval at the November meeting.

Continuing Business:

Kristie reported little progress on projects she is encouraging for a new program "Capitol Funding for rural library construction and renovation", a fund being administered by the Dept. of Commerce. Efforts will continue for Tekoa, Oakesdale and Albion.

Suzanne Schmick was nominated and approved by a vote of the board to serve a second board term beginning in 2020. Kristie will submit the Board's re-appointment request to the County Commissioners.

The Washington State Auditor's office will be here in November to conduct a three year accountability audit for 2016-2018.

Monthly Business:

Minutes from the September 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of the board.

Financial reports including the September payroll and accounts payable vouchers of \$96,369.95 were presented to the Board. There was no additional discussion and Resolutions #2019-22 and #2019-23 were approved by a vote of the board.

Kristie gave a report of September library usage. Traditional and digital circulation along with the overall program attendance figures saw solid increases. Circulation in Albion doubled, a nice start for our new manager Tim Weng. Other branches showing strong increases included Endicott, Garfield, Lacrosse, Palouse, St John, and Colfax.

Researchers working on a grant-funded study through The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) visited the Colfax and Palouse libraries to observe and discuss how health related programs and services might correlate with the health of one's community. Discussions were held with the library director, associate director, public services manager and many community partners. Branch managers from Tekoa, Malden and Palouse also participated. The grant hopes to prove a correlation between programming and community health and then produce best practices to be used by libraries of all sizes. WCL was one of 24 libraries selected in the U.S.

Kristie is working on developing a once a year film festival and month-long exhibit with a \$20,000 grant that was received from the estate of Robert Osborne. Kristie is working with the Osborne family and Robert's assistant at Turner Movie Classics.

The board discussed the position description of the Library Director. They reviewed a tentative timeline for hiring a new director.

Upcoming Board Meetings and trainings:

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12 at 4 p.m. at the Colfax Library.

December 17 at 4:00 PM at the Colfax Library. Skype call scheduled with Joy Neal.

Suzanne adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Shirley Cornelius, Secretary

Suzanne Schmick, Vice-Chair