

Friends of Whitman County Library

Meeting notes – Oct. 6, 2020

In attendance: Sue Hallett, Cheryl Jones, Kylie Fullmer, Sheri Miller, Nichole Kopp, Kathy Buchholtz, (via ZOOM: Jil Mohr, Dana Hogan, Kristie Kirkpatrick)

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Hallett at 11 a.m.

After introductions, Sue welcomed Kylie and invited her to speak. Kylie shared about her first month's experience with Whitman County Library, getting to know the staff, beginning a new position just one day after the wildfires destroyed our Malden branch, and her living situation in town at the Siesta Motel.

In an update for our branches, Kylie said the Rosalia library has increased its hours to add Malden's schedule to its own to accommodate displaced families. The library is showing more use of those extra hours. Cards and donations received for the Malden branch have been coming in from across the country including a library in Malden, Massachusetts. Future plans for the branch are being looked into with information from insurance being gathered. It's expected that the RO and MA branches will both operate out of the RO library through this year. Sue thanked Kylie for all the work she's put in on the Malden situation.

Library card sign-up was this month with WCL signing up 27 new library cards. Sheri Miller organized the drawings for two \$25 gift certificates donated by the Friends. The Colfax winner is Holly McGuire. The all-branch winner is Janie McElhenney of Colton. Their gift certificates will be used at a local business of their choice.

A COVID-19 update spoke to town and library plans. The library has evaluated the past month and increased its scheduled hours open and updated patron computer and browsing time to 30 minutes each. Kylie spoke about the Cares Act money, first going to the Friends as non-profit organization and then transferred to the library. It was decided a vote was not necessary and Sue shared that if needed, the by-laws allow as few as three board members to vote due to the situation caused by the pandemic.

Youth services have been providing 25-30 "Storytime packets to go" a week with good success. Some branches are trying ZOOM for their Storytime programs and SJ has held an in-person story time, following group size restrictions. Colfax is planning a dress up story time the end of October, also keeping the head count to 10 or under. Nichole shared that she is pulling together Trick-or-Treat packets with candy experiments/projects, bringing STEM into the picture.

Kylie spoke about the Ice Age ground breaking ceremony in LaCrosse she attended with Kristie at the beginning of the month. LaCrosse Community Pride, Peggy Bryan, and Alex McGregor were there to hold the event. Kristie shared the library's connection to the project through the exhibits and photographs being shared on Whitman County Library's online heritage collection.

Upcoming events for FOL and WCL include the Festival of Trees in December, a modified version of Winter Fest, and tentative plans for Jingle and Mingle following state safety guidelines. Nichole has five trees signed up at this time. The importance of events including the community businesses and keeping partnerships strong was discussed.

September's recognition for Supporter of the Month includes everyone in all the communities who have shown support, all volunteers who gave their time, and those who made donations and helped in any way during the crisis of the wildfires in our communities. An ad has been placed in the Gazette to thank everyone.

A portion of the month's correspondence was shared by Kylie, including Malden, Massachusetts, Whatcom County Library in Bellingham, Washington and a local patron, Mabel Vogt. Concern, well wishes and donations were included.

Kylie was asked to read the financial report for Shirley Cornelius who was not available. Contributions were well over \$7,000, with a majority of the total a result of the Malden fire. Under expenses, \$100 was donated from FOL to the MA librarian, Vanessa Place, who lost her home. The Edward Jones investment showed a loss due to market changes at this time.

In other business, Jill asked about Flu shots. They are available at many branches, but not at the CX branch. Kristie was able to share that the health department in town provides flu shots to the community.

The next FOL meeting will be November 3, 2020 at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Buchholtz