

Whitman County Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Public Meeting at the Center, Colfax Library
October 20,, 2020

Present: Kylie Fullmer, Steve Balzarini, Bob Bates, Heather Lustig, Suzanne Schmick, Sheri Miller, and Shirley Cornelius.

Chair Steve Balzarini called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

There were no additions or modifications to the agenda.

New Business:

A revised 2020 budget was presented to the board. The need for revision occurred because of increased revenue and expenses incurred because of COVID-19 and additional CARES Act funding. After discussion, Resolution 20-25 Revision of 2020 Budget was approved by a vote of the board.

A 2021 budget was introduced to the board and Shirley Cornelius briefly went over the components of the budget. The board was asked to review the budget and send their comments to the director before the next board meeting when the budget would be approved.

The library applied for and will receive over \$92,000 in CARES Act funding from Whitman County. Some of the money will be used for some expenses already incurred such as additional staffing, unemployment costs, and additional PPE expenses. With the increased need for additional internet coverage due to remote learning and working, funds will be allocated for additional Wi-Fi coverage, hotspots, webcams, laptops, and new printers for all of the branches.

Kylie handed out print outs of the Library's new logo and website design. The library used catchafire.org to design the new logo. Catchafire is a for-profit organization which matches skill based connections between professional volunteers and nonprofits. A volunteer was matched with the library which resulted in the new design. Javad Reneau, technology specialist for the library, is rolling out the library's new website design which is in trial this week and will be advertised publically on Monday, October 26.

Continuing Business:

The library continues to re-evaluate its response to COVID-19. New guidance from the Governor's office has reduced our ability to hold in person meetings from ten to five making it more difficult to schedule meetings for the community. The library has increased its hours, however, resulting in an increase in patron visits. More grab and go bags will be available in November as part of the Innovia Health grant. Prime Time reading has resumed with Zoom meetings instead of the in person format that was used last year. Fourteen families have signed up and will receive a bag of books that do not have to be returned. Instead of the potluck dinners that were held last year, each family will receive a \$25 Rosauers gift card for each night they attend. If they attend all six meetings, they will receive a total of \$150.00. The 3rd Annual Bridges Day in Rosalia is this week and will be held as a Zoom meeting.

Earlier this summer, Kristie and the Port of Whitman County were partnering to help towns distribute \$25,000 in COVID-19 funding that each town received. So far Oakesdale, Garfeld, and Rosalia have expressed interest in collaborating with the Port and the Library to spend their funds. The Port and Library have been working with Lamont to explore the idea of finishing their library building and also with the community of Steptoe to bring Wi-Fi to their town.

Our Malden librarian will be starting a pop-up library on Fridays in Malden. Hopefully with space, we may be able to do more than just Fridays and expand our open hours. In Albion, the bookshelves are up and the shelves are beginning to be refilled. The building is still not open to the public but the library is open for curbside service.

Letters have been sent out to potential trustee candidates to replace Bob Bates but so far there has been no expressed interest. Kylie asked the board to continue seeking out potential replacements.

Monthly Business:

Minutes from the September 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of the board.


Financial reports including the September payroll and accounts payable vouchers of \$95,721.63 were presented to the Board. There was no additional discussion and Resolutions #2020-23 and #2020-24 was approved by a vote of the board.

Kylie provided the Board with usage statistics for September. Checkouts were up in Farmington, Oakesdale, and Rosalia. Rosalia's statistics reflected their expanded hours which includes the addition of Malden hours. Oakesdale has a new librarian and usage is starting to pick up there. Facebook reach is also up mainly because of more people following the Malden Library after the fire. Rural Heritage's reach in September was up almost 100% over August because historical pictures of Pine City were posted on Rural Heritage in September following the fire that destroyed Pine City. In looking at the bar graphs presented to the Board, attendance is down but circulation is going back up and outreach on social media is going back up.

Cindy Alred's report on the ARSL conference will be delayed to the November meeting.

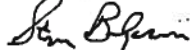
The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 17 at 4:00 PM at the Center in Colfax.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.



Shirley Cornelius, Secretary

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Steve Balzarini, Chair

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