Whitman County Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Public Meeting at the Colfax Branch of the Whitman County Library August 16, 2022

Present: Sue Kreikemeier, Ronda Penwell, Heather Lustig, Cody Allen, Shirley Cornelius, and Sheri Miller.

Chair Suzanne Schmick called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting, and Resolutions 22-15 and 22-16 were approved by a vote of the Board.

Reports

August financial documents were shared with the board and there were no additional comments on the statements.

In the director's report, Cody has officially visited all the branches except Malden, Colton, and Uniontown. There are have been a few patron issues during the month that were resolved at the director level. Cody has been reviewing the current library policies and we could possibly be revising a few of them in the future. During the Colfax 150 Celebration, our core router failed and we learned the warranty had just expired on it. James worked with the provider and got a new router for a reduced price and everything is working now. Kathy Buchholtz and Hannah Shepherd are going out to the branches in September for Rural Heritage scanning events. Several branches are looking into changing their hours to facilitate programming needs. Because of an increasing number of prank telephone calls, the library's 800 number has been discontinued. Finally Malden has a new internet provider which will provide us with a much lower rate.

Continuing Business

In branch news, the Garfield branch has no air conditioning and we are currently working on getting a unit into the branch.

Library usage continues to show improvement especially in computer usage which has progressively been going up since May.

Cody handed out the library's current policy on Censorship/Intellectual Freedom. Discussion followed in regards to the documents handed out at this meeting along with the Library Bill of Rights interpretation put out by the American Library Association in regards to collection development.

New Business

With a board vacancy coming at the end of the year, each board member is asked to bring a name for a possible replacement to the September meeting. The director will follow up with those names and set up interviews with the candidates for the October or November meeting.

The director has applied for a \$500,000 State Broadband Office Digital Navigator Grant which will be awarded in September with a grant completion time frame of October 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Part One of the grant includes 265 laptops for Affordable Connectivity Access. Part Two of the grant includes skills for navigating digital spaces which will entail training of our current staff to handle basic questions. More technical question would go to a hotline for answers. The grant also allows us to extend hours at each branch for a half a day to allow people to come in with their questions.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 20 at 4:00 PM at the Colfax branch of the Whitman County Library.

Shirley Cornelius

Suzanne Schmick, Chair