

GARNETT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 9th, 2021
6:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Present: Linda Huettenmueller, Sandra Moffatt, Jennifer Sibley, Sharon Yost, and Denise Scheibmeir as well as Library Director Andrea Sobba.

I. Secretary's Report – The minutes were approved (Huettenmueller/Scheibmeir).

II. Treasurer's Report – Andrea provided an overview of the balance sheets for library revenue and expenditures. \$1670 has been received from the Tommy Lewis Memorial so far. The Gifts and Memorials Account earned \$1.70 in interest in June. Current bank statements were not yet available for the Gifts & Memorials and SEKLS/State Aid accounts. The certificate of deposit held by GPL matures at a value of \$18,323.19. Trustees will allow it to rollover and renew for another 24-month term (Scheibmeir/Yost).

III. Payment of bills was approved (Hall/Sibley).

IV. No citizens were present for comment.

V. Librarian Sobba presented the usual statistics for library usage and activities for July of 2021 as compared to July of 2020. Circulation was up while usage of e-formats was down somewhat. There were 10 storytime sessions with 198 persons attending. 78 persons attended 5 other children's programs. The storywalk had 31 uses reported. Patron usage for the library averaged 76/day and 10/hour. The summer reading program has concluded. The modified format used to address Covid-19 concerns was successful, with many outdoor activities. The overall number of 149 readers was slightly lower than 2019 when the program was held without restrictions. There were 65 pre-K through first graders, 49 second through fourth graders, and 35 fifth through eighth graders.

VI. The Walker Art Committee is planning a trip to Starlight Theatre for the VanGogh Alive exhibit. Ongoing monthly gallery displays are also planned for the far hallway in the library's west wing.

VII. The FOL outdoor book & purse/bag sale went well. Other FOL seasonal activities & fundraisers are on hold until more is known about the current regional Covid trends.

VIII. A. The library's cleaning person has been absent for 3 weeks due to health concerns. The staff has taken over these duties temporarily.

B. GPL is currently in Phase 4 of the pandemic plan. With local covid numbers on the rise again, trustees approved cessation of large group bookings for the Archer Room. Signage recommending indoor masking for library staff & patrons will also be reposted.

C. Andrea has forwarded suggestions for drinking fountains, including a bottle filler feature, to Wolken Plumbing & Electrical, Inc.

D. Andrea is still waiting on an engineer to visit and recommend a solution to the west-side flooding.

E. Andrea announced GPL will receive an ARPA grant to increase outdoor access and seating for use of electronic devices & library Wi-Fi! Jordan Hall, Jen Sibley, Denise Scheibmeir, and Mike Hermann will serve on the committee for intermeeting ARPA project decisions.

F. E-rate funds will need to target community members who lack internet access. Purchase of an extended contract for hotspots is allowed but future renewal of the contract would have to be supported by the GPL budget. Mobile Beacon charges \$120/year per device. Further discussion by trustees gave Andrea permission to plan the purchase of 20 hotspots for direct patron check-out using e-rate funds. She will additionally purchase 5 more hotspots from Tech Soup at a lower cost of \$15 each using library funds; these 5 would be reserved for general library use. The recommended check-out period for patrons is 3 months, but policy regarding hotspot check-out can be developed as needed.

G. The SHARP grant is provided by Humanities Kansas to help with operational support. Andrea will submit revenue losses and costs due to Covid closures and restrictions: reductions in Archer Room revenues;

reductions in annual fundraiser revenues; purchase of camera and microphone needing to conduct ongoing hybrid meetings. Only 20% of requested funds may be used toward equipment purchase. Andrea feels that this grant may yield a \$2,400 reimbursement.

IX. D. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, 9/13/21 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned (Scheibmeir/Yost).

Submitted by Jennifer Sibley, Secretary