

GARNETT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
ZOOM Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 8th, 2021  
6:00 PM

Present: Jennifer Sibley, Sharon Yost, Denise Scheibmeir, Sandra Moffatt, Jordan Hall and Mike Hermann as well as Library Director Andrea Sobba.

- I. Secretary's Report – The minutes for December of 2020 & January of 2021 were approved (Yost/Moffatt).
- II. Treasurer's Report – Balances were not available for review at this time for the SEK/State Aid or Gifts & Memorials accounts due to the Board treasurer's absence. Andrea presented accounting for overall library revenues and expenditures by sharing her screen. Highlights included: \$325.21 collected in fines & copies; \$730 received so far for the Violet Brownrigg Memorial; and \$3063.25 received from the first SEKLS allocation of 2021.
- III. Payment of bills was approved (Scheibmeir/Moffatt).
- IV. No citizens were present for comment.
- V. Librarian Sobba presented the usual statistics for library usage and activities for January of 2021 as compared to January of 2020. She also related library statistics for the year of 2020 as compared to 2019. For the year 2020, overall circulation was down while usage of e-formats was up. Interlibrary loan (ILL) numbers were down but not considerably when factoring in the periods when system libraries had to close due to the pandemic. Internet usage was down. Storytime attendance remained constant but moved to a virtual format accessible on the library's Facebook page. Participation in the library's other programs was down. Because of all the changes the pandemic brought and the lasting effects it will have into the future, Andrea shared that many libraries are calling 2020 "year zero" and will not dwell on past losses but the gains moving forward. Andrea has also published the GPL Annual Report to make the public aware of yearly statistics, staff changes, grants received, upcoming programs in 2021, and the value of library programs and materials utilized over the year if converted to dollars.
- VI. The Walker Art Committee has finished cataloging the City art collection, updated insurance coverage, and looks forward to receiving more applications from area high school seniors for its annual scholarship. Nancy Foltz was approved as the Walker Art Committee representative appointed by the GPL Board of Trustees (Scheibmeir/Moffatt).
- VII. FOL has a couple of new board members: Linda Brandes & Sarah Ford. A pandemic-proof format is being discussed for "Pie Day" in March. New memberships and renewals are currently being received.
- VIII.
  - A. The Board reviewed the pandemic policy. Discussion was held on potentially opening the library's west wing. It was decided to pursue the opening of the community gallery space but to keep the doors locked that lead to the far west hallway. Opening of the Archer Room to the general public will be postponed as this is being used as a temporary studio for virtual storytime sessions. The Walker Art Collection has, and will continue to be, available for viewing upon request.
  - B. Marci Long has been hired for the part-time cleaning position.
  - C. Andrea is still investigating hot-spots for patron check-out. Roger Carswell at SEKLS is determining if the project would qualify for consideration for the SEKLS Fall 2021 collection development grant.
  - D. Trustees continued discussion of discontinuing daily fines for patrons. Andrea clarified that patrons would have to return overdue items before being allowed further check-outs, and that lost/damaged materials would still have required replacement fees before further check-outs. Yearly totals for fine and replacement fees paid by patrons averages around \$2800 yearly. The Board discussed the unintended negative effects, particularly to disadvantaged youth, of having access to reading restricted by traditional

daily fines. The time of library staff can also be used for more positive pursuits if duties related to notifying patrons of fines, etc. are reduced/eliminated. The Board approved a transition to becoming “fine-free” and developing the policy to support the change (Scheibmeir/Hall)

E. The Adult Reading Program is providing take-and-makes to participants and encouraging them to share photos and comments on the library’s Facebook page. A collective total of 200 books have been read so far. The number of readers remains comparable to 2020 at 51.

IX. A. Andrea would like to honor Violet Brownrigg’s memory with updated copies for the children’s collection.

Memorial funds would be used to replace classic children’s books that are beyond repair.

B. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, 3/8/21 at 6:00 PM on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned (Scheibmeir/Moffatt).

Submitted by Jennifer Sibley, Secretary