

William B. Ogden Free Library
Board of Trustees Meeting- Zoom
May 25, 2021

Attending: Library Director Heather Johnson, Pres. Robbie Jean Rice; Members: Jessica Backus-Foster, Mary Doig, Sandy Gregory, Jim Haggerty, Kathy Harby, Rachel James, Lynda Preiser, Scribe Kyrra Howard, Library Staff Sharon LaPierre; Absent: Matt Chambers, Sheryl Edwards, Jim Kane

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Pres. R. Rice.

The March 23rd library minutes were reviewed and one spelling correction was made. There was a motion to accept the minutes as amended by J. Haggerty. This was seconded by K. Harby and approved.

S. Edwards sent her business report, which included the last bill paid for the construction and that the tent rental was paid in full.

H. Johnson sent out her Director's Report. She wanted to highlight the diversity workshops with W.I.D.E. that will begin at our library with a program about Juneteenth. That will take place on Saturday June 19th. The Andes director wrote a grant for the project, and the participating libraries will be offering free books to families in attendance. The bike program was a great collaboration event. There were 31 in attendance, even in the cold and rain. The Walton police gave out free bike helmets and two volunteers did bike maintenance. It was great to see the excitement for this free community event. The Make & Takes are going fast and the scavenger hunt was a great addition for this month. Also, library patrons are taking our crafts to use in schools and for family events.

J. Haggerty gave the Grant Rogers Report with announcements for two events. The Canal Street String Band will have a Zoom concert on June 5th at 7 PM. Attendees will need to pre-register to have access to the link. The second event will be Riding the Rails on July 11th at 3 PM. This event will be live in the tent with many other collaborators in attendance.

The Construction Report was sent by G. Miller as his final report. M. Chambers has taken over the construction committee with G. Miller's resignation. The final bill has been paid and H. Johnson will move forward with changing the locks, which was previously voted on.

L. Preiser made a motion to accept G. Miller's resignation. M. Doig seconded and the motion was approved. K. Harby gave G. Miller a Thank You gift certificate from the board. L. Preiser read a thank you letter sent by G. Miller.

R. James asked about suggestions for G. Miller's replacement, and if they should have a construction background. J. Backus-Foster suggested two names, Aaron Richardson

and Paul Wood, but neither was accepted as an option. R. James suggested Jon Hoffman. H. Johnson said that it might be beneficial to add diversity to the board with a variety of ages and skill sets. Any suggestions will be sent to R. James and she will send out an email.

R. James made a motion to accept V. Byrne's resignation. M. Doig seconded and the motion was approved. H. Johnson sent flowers and read a letter sent by V. Byrne. V. Byrne will volunteer to help with the scrapbook when she is feeling better. There was some discussion about doing more as a Thank You, and R. Rice said that maybe it could be added to the Fall Open House on October 23rd, which will include recognition of G. Miller, C. Van Buren, A. Sulger, and others.

A motion was made by L. Preiser to accept the hire of C. Barnes for 20 hours to replace V. Byrne's hours. J. Haggerty seconded the motion and it was approved.

J. Haggerty made a motion to give \$250 to Dollars for Scholars for a graduating senior. M. Doig seconded and the motion was approved.

The library will be receiving \$5,367 from the Hanford Trust this year. Some of the funds will be going towards the Riding the Rails event. Also the Wood Trust funds should be coming soon, which can be used for new materials for circulation.

E. De Morier, a former Walton High School alumni, has reached out to the library and wants to do something for library and the Walton community. Some ideas were put on the table to discuss and think about. J. Haggerty suggested having his help with the Grant Rogers project and website. S. Gregory suggested having him write a play, possibly based on Grant Rogers, and have it performed at the theatre. R. Rice said that maybe short skits could include other local writers. S. LaPierre suggested doing a program with video editing to get a younger crowd involved. R. James and R. Rice said they would meet to brainstorm and discuss the ideas to present to the board.

H. Johnson presented some strategic planning information from 4CLS. She said that we need to go through the interview process with community leaders, elected officials, the fire and police departments, the school, and others. The board will be collecting information on people in their sphere of influence to be contacted by H. Johnson. The questions are about what people want to see for the Walton community, then that information will be compiled to extract what the library could offer or facilitate in the future. H. Johnson asked that the board members send at least ten people's information to her by June 7th for her to make contact. The board members should also send in their own responses to the interview questions.

The policy for wearing masks was discussed since the change for those who are vaccinated are no longer mandated by the state to wear masks. H. Johnson said that the library needs to update their safety plan, but not to feel rushed into a decision after she talked with a lawyer about the options. There were three options for the library to take. 1-Require masks and social distancing. 2-Follow the CDC guidelines and no

longer require masks with proof of vaccination. 3-Follow the CDC guidelines and no longer require masks with the honor system. The idea of not wanting library staff to have to police whether patrons about wearing masks was brought up. Also, whether or not to allow patrons to use the computers downstairs was discussed. It was decided to open the computers by appointment, but everyone will need to wear a mask while using the computer. The library has alcohol wipes to clean in-between patrons. H. Johnson said that everyone will have to wear masks for children's programs since they cannot get the vaccine yet. L. Preiser made a motion to change the safety plan to follow the CDC guidelines, with masks worn by the unvaccinated. The plan will also require everyone to wear a mask during computer use and children's programs. R. James seconded the motion and it was approved.

R. James made a motion to elect M. Chambers as Vice President to replace G. Miller. J. Haggerty seconded and the motion was approved.

The next meeting will be July 27th at 7 PM on Zoom.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:36 PM by J. Haggerty, seconded by K. Harby and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Preiser, Secretary
Kyrra Howard, Scribe