

Fern Ridge Library Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday September 8, 2021
Meeting conducted virtually via ZOOM

Board Members: Erik Carlstrom; Bri Piccioni; Olivia Johnson; Jerri Moore; Olivia Johnson
Steve Recca

Staff: Assistant Director: Laura Blankenship; Business Manager: Lesley Steppan

Public: None

OPENING

Call to Order

Chair, Erik Carlstrom, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Review agenda

No changes to the agenda.

Review minutes

Jerri Moore pointed out a misspelling in the section about policy review.

No other changes to the minutes.

Jerri Moore moved to accept the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Steve Recca. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Hearing of Patrons

None present.

Correspondence

None.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Budget Committee Vacancies

Business manager Lesley Steppan indicated there are no vacancies on the committee and we are set for the coming year.

Potluck Committee

A discussion about the past and future of the potluck occurred as there is no hope of pulling off a potluck of the present. Jerri M. suggested that the pandemic and shutdown makes this a great time to make a change. Olivia mentioned a successful volunteer tea event at Veneta Elementary. The library sent gift cards to all the volunteers recently and that was very well received, according to Laura Blankenship. Steve Recca agreed that a potluck during pandemic is not a great idea, and that a wait and see approach is a good idea. Chair Erik Carlstrom brought up the relatively low vaccination rates in our district and agreed that it will likely be about a year before we can have anything in person.

For now, the potluck will stay on the calendar but will not occur in December. Other ways to recognize volunteers will be investigated.

Erik Carlstrom moved that the potluck be replaced in this calendar year with some kind of virtual recognition. Motioned was seconded by Steve Recca. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Covid Service Levels

Laura B. reported that service levels have not changed since the last meeting. Youth Services Coordinator Caitlin McMahan held the first scheduled live story time recently and no one showed. We will try a few other events to see how live programs are received, but we will likely stick with virtual programming throughout the winter. Several anecdotes were shared about social events in the area and consensus is that it is still dangerous for people to meet face-to-face at present.

Future Planning

Jerri spoke with the presumed owner of the lot next to the library in the spring. Steve R. said he is under the impression that the lot was owned by someone not approached by the library. An examination of the public records showed that the lot we are interested in belongs to someone other than the owner of the Emporium. Jerri M. suggested that regardless of the ownership the library should pursue acquiring the lot for future development.

Steve R. suggested an executive session to discuss the possibility of a property transaction for the October board meeting.

Other future planning needs discussed were a strategic planning session and a community survey. Oliva J. cautioned about a survey now given the mood of the community.

REPORTS

Chair

Erik Carlstrom has not seen any issues on social media about the library and that the library continues to make smart decisions regarding any possible COVID exposure.

Director

No report.

Financial

Business manager Lesley Steppan sent the monthly financial report via e-mail, and showed that she has reallocated some of the water and garbage/recycling to the grounds to be more appropriate to the budget. Jerri M. suggested not recording expenses in the grounds budget so that the line item can be dropped sooner, as discussed in the last meeting.

Foundation & Grants

Writers & Wine is now a virtual event where books and wine will be picked up at the library with an option for ticket holders to come in to the library to get the book signed by the author.

Grounds

Nothing to report.

LCOG

Nothing to report.

Art

Nothing to report.

Technology

Nothing to report.

POLICY REVIEW

None reviewed.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chair Erik Carlstrom adjourned the meeting at 7:57pm.

Respectfully,
Colin Rea, Library Director