

MINUTES
VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
VIRTUAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
26 April 2021

Attending: Bryan Richmond, President; Alan Kowlowitz, Sarah Brunt, Janna Shillinglaw, Belinda Heckler, VP; and Sarah Clark, clerk

Others Attending: Tracey Pause, Assistant Director

Excused:

Call to order 7:03 pm

No public comments

Review of Minutes: 22 March 2021 minutes adopted as presented.

M(SB) S(JS) P: TO ACCEPT THE 22 MARCH 2021 MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Sarah C. reported that the youth services dept. partnered with the PTA and FOL to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House of Albany. They raised almost \$1,500. The PTA and FOL each got 5%.

We are going to be nominating the YS drive thru Nursery Rhyme and Fairy Tale program to the UHLS program of the year award. It was a unique and safe, in-person, drive thru program with community outreach.

Sarah C. was approached by someone from Senator Hinchey's office, with a question about using space at the Library to meet with local residents. Sarah C. said she would like to offer her office, one afternoon, every other week. Trustees discussed this, and feels this is fine, but it needs to be offered to all representative offices, so it is not perceived as partisan. None of this will happen until the Library is open, probably in the Fall. Sarah C. will keep the trustees up to date on this.

NYS: The 2021-22 budget includes a proposal to establish a \$15 Million statewide digital inclusion grant, which will help bring digital technology to places that need it. As soon as applications are open for this grant, Sarah C. would like to apply. Some options would be: for the state to cover the monthly cost of the hotspots we supply; maybe partner with other libraries to have actual infrastructure change/improvements. The trustees discussed this and want Sarah C. to follow up and keep them informed.

M(AK) S(SB) P: TO ACCEPT THE DIRECTORS REPORT AS PRESENTED.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M (JS) S (BR) P: TO ACCEPT THE 26 APRIL 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT OF \$82,451.01 IN THE OPERATING ACCOUNT, \$258,505.58 IN THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT, \$1,040,844.35 IN THE MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT, \$26,036.23 IN THE DONATIONS ACCOUNT.

WARRANTS:

M (BH) S (SB) P: APPROVE FOR PAYMENT WARRANTS 9A AND 10 (COMBINED MARCH 18-APRIL 14, 2021) OF \$15,687.65 FROM OPERATING FUNDS. SAID WARRANT IS FILED WITH THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

FOL: Tracey reported the FOL has approved their budget for 2021-22. The Library will be getting a total \$12,220 for various programs.

They are still looking for people to join the board.

The annual meeting date is June 7, at 7pm.

Encore!book sSheds will be opening on May 4, Tuesdays and Thursdays to start.

Anti Racism Task Force:

Tracey reported that she led a successful learning circle on the 20th of April, for staff and UHLS staff. Still working on a system wide large author event, with Grethchen Sorin, the author of “Driving while Black”. Also working on kits for libraries to do their own learning circles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Did not meet

Personnel: Did not meet

Facilities: Did not meet.

Policy: Did not meet.

Strategic Planning: Did not meet

Covid-19 Update:Sarah C. reported that last week we tested allowing people to browse without an appointment. Both teams had a good day, with about 5 people each. This will be repeated this week, and if there are no issues, unscheduled browsing will be our baseline standard.

State Ed has requested that Libraries return to their minimum required open hours, starting June 1. Based on our area population, that would be 35 hours/week. After looking at the number of phone calls in the morning versus evening, it was decided that we would extend our morning hours. We will also be starting to combine the teams, a little at a time. The summer reading program will have some librarians working outside of the building. We are also starting some outdoor programming, as early as May. We will still be making appointments available, for those not comfortable with browsing. Things are moving in the right direction.

BUDGET MESSAGE: The budget mailer is being printed, and will be mailed out next week.

We will have extra mailers available at the library, for people to pick up.

We have (2) candidates to fill the opening for the Board of Trustees. Since the Enterprise usually does an article, focusing on each district's candidates. Sarah C. explained that we would have a link on our website, linking to the article, so people can read about the candidates.

NEW BUSINESS

Belinda asked Sarah C. if she is aware of district money available through ARP Federal funds. Belinda explained that school districts are getting grant monies, and may be looking for ways to spend it. Sarah C. will look into, and follow up.

Sarah B. asked if they could re-visit in-person meetings. The trustees discussed this, and decided that September would be a good goal to return to in-person, if everything continues improving.

No public comments.

No executive session.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, May 17

M(JS) S(BR) P: TO ADJOURN AT 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Clark, Clerk