

James L. Hamner Public Library
Board Meeting
January 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jennifer Jones at 7:00 pm. Members present were Jill Hames, Ruth Ashton, Karen Freas, Gail Geraghty, Mary Ann Griles, Tom Hayghe, Carol Hix, Jennifer Jones, and Virginia Whitaker. Also present were Friends member Linda Whittington and former board president Phil Seyfried.

Corresponding Secretary - Carol said there has been no correspondence, but she asked staff if we should send a card of encouragement to Becky Russell due to recent illness. Jill said we should.

Friends Report - Linda reported that Friends president Louisa Fink has provided lunches recently for library staff. The Friends have had a few issues with member communication, but are getting some glitches worked out. She also said that all units in their building continue to be rented. They hope to be able to meet again maybe in the spring or summer.

Jennifer reminded members that the treasurer's position has been removed, and there will no longer be a treasurer's report.

Budget Committee - Carol put in a new version of the budget as she was unsure if we need to revote after the unexpected change in state aid. After a brief discussion, it was decided that we will not need to vote again.

Evaluation Committee - Tom said he has gotten back about 20-21 feedback forms, from library staff, board members, county administration, and Friends of the library. He said that this is a much better response than in previous years. He is continuing to work on the evaluation.

Planning Committee - There is no report at this time. The strategic plan will be done in the spring.

Library Director's Report - Jill asked for questions about the quarterly report; there were none. Jill said we have shown growth in a few areas. Digital events have more participation over time, an average of 34, and she feels the extra time she puts into them has a good payoff. Regarding this year's budget, our state aid has changed: we now have \$4,247 more to use until June.

Old/New Business - Jennifer discussed the needs assessment. Meetings with the Enteros representative were held with several community groups, including seniors, teachers, Friends, board members, county officials, etc. and there was a good turnout. Many people had good insight and ideas. Phil said that we're taking the right steps. Jill said that Gil, the Entero rep, has taken lots of notes, compiled data, prepared spreadsheets, etc. Jill can share this information with anyone who would like to see it. Jennifer said that next week we're having a town hall meeting, held virtually on Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. Jill said it's more for those who couldn't be at the previous meetings. She will send out a zoom link closer to the date. Those attending will have the opportunity to participate in virtual voting/polling about the proposed expansion. Jill has invited presenters/performers we have used in the past to participate, as she feels they should have good input. Linda said that she is hoping we will have more people involved and participating, to show community support. Jennifer said that March 15th is our target completion date.

Jennifer said we need to vote on changes to the Closing and Leave Policy and approve this year's holiday schedule. The wording was adapted by Jill to make it easier for changes when the need may arise. Carol moved we adopt, Karen seconded, and none were opposed.

Jennifer and Jill spoke about the Covid-leave policy that was updated to make it match federal changes. Jill said it was changed so we are not penalizing staff who need leave time. We're now allowing a total of 20 days, with two blocks of 10 days each. The leave policy will need to be adjusted as things change. Tom moved we accept the leave changes, and Ruth and Karen seconded. None opposed.

Jill said that she will provide virtual Webex access to future meetings if you let her know ahead of time that you will need it.

Our next executive meeting will be held on February 9th, at 4:00 and our next full board meeting will be March 16th at 7:00.

At 7:38 Karen moved to adjourn the meeting and Gail seconded.