

James L. Hamner Public Library
Board Meeting
Sept. 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Jennifer Harris, president. Members present were Jill Hames, Ruth Ashton, Gail Geraghty, Mary Ann Griles, Tom Hayghe, Virginia Whitaker, and Jennifer Jones. Also present was a library patron.

Jennifer asked if there were any questions or issues with the minutes that were sent out from our last meeting. There were none. Ruth moved that we accept the minutes and Mary Ann seconded.

Friends report - There were no Friends present.

Correspondence - Carol is currently in the hospital. Gail said that she'd send a get well card to her.

Evaluation Committee - Tom said that there is nothing to share at this point, but by next meeting we'll be starting with the annual evaluation. The library patron asked about what the evaluation was for and Jennifer explained about the process and about the function of the board committees.

Director's Report - Jill said that it's been slow at the library - about half as busy as we were last year at this time - but use has been steady. Youth attendance has been mostly in twos or threes, and mainly for brief periods. There still continues to be steady computer use. Scott, our new floating assistant, has been working at the front desk and has been reorganizing things. The new employees have also taken it upon themselves to update more displays. The position for community engagement librarian is still open, and Jill has two upcoming interviews scheduled.

Jill shared that Rosetta Stone, a language learning app, is now free for patrons with a library card. It has engaging downloadable lessons in many languages. She has been in contact with the schools to promote it.

Also, we can now access new videos on demand for adults and for kids.

New Business - Jill brought up covid leave for library employees. Jennifer said that state employees have to be vaccinated, or be tested regularly, but are no longer given covid leave, although the library is free to adjust its covid policy. Jill proposed that we offer covid leave to employees - a total of 20 days annually. It will be a boost to current workers and perhaps an incentive to prospective employees. Virginia asked how much is in the budget and Jill said it's part of the annual budget, and that we could really do what we want. Jill said that we would need to look up current CDC regulations as need for covid leave arises, and go from there at the library's discretion. Tom said that we

should follow the county's leave policy and Jennifer agreed. Tom moved to approve the motion to offer covid leave, and Gail seconded. None opposed.

Jennifer brought up a new initiative that she's involved with in the public schools which is looking to improve communication between the schools and the community. She asked Jill and board members to think about ideas of what could be done, such as programming opportunities for students, etc. Jill said she'd speak with her about it.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40. Our next scheduled meeting will take place on Nov 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.