

Whitman County Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Oakesdale City Park
June 15, 2015

Present: Bob Bates, Chuck Petras, Steve Balzarini, Andrea Miller, Suzanne Schmick, Kristie Kirkpatrick and Peggy Bryan.

Board chair Chuck Petras called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m., following a brief tour of the Oakesdale Branch.

Kristie reviewed facts and statistics of Oakesdale Branch. Following the meeting, she will be attending the Oakesdale City Council meeting presenting information on their local library. She will also hand out a simple survey that will assist in the strategic planning process.

Chuck asked if there were any additions or modifications to the agenda, there were none.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Steve Balzarini motioned to approve the April minutes, Bob Bates seconded and the motion passed.

Peggy presented the financial reports for April and May 2015. She presented payment voucher resolution #2015-11 totaling \$166,829.12. Andrea Miller made a motion to approve the resolution; Suzanne Schmick seconded and the motion passed.

Kristie reported on system-wide circulation for April and May. For April, traditional usage of books and materials rose by 4%. Branches seeing strong increases were Albion, Lacrosse, Rosalia and Colfax. Service measures were all strong except for kids' attendance which saw a big drop in the branches. Database usage and website usage all saw decreases. Only digital checkouts (eBooks and audio books) for both April and May continue to climb. Volunteer increased by 150 hours or 150%.

For May, traditional usage and services were basically even. Lacrosse saw a HUGE increase in checkouts and Rosalia's increase was sizeable. Kids' attendance dropped for May but this is somewhat normal when regular programs wind down in preparation for Summer Reading programs. Database usage and website usage all saw decreases. Kristie is concerned with this trend and will continue to monitor it.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Kristie announced that bids for the Town of Uniontown project were approx. \$20,000 higher than expected. The Friends of WCL assisted the town in raising approximately \$60,000 to date for this project. Kristie attended a recent town council meeting, and the city is trying to fundraise \$10,000 for the restroom. The Friends of WCL will contribute another \$500 and the library \$1000. The Friends of WCL will assist with additional fund raising.

Kristie reported that the windows will be installed next week in The Center. WCL received \$40,000 in .09 funds for The Center but will need to match 25% or \$10,000 in order to access the funds. Steve inquired about personal donations, which can be made to the Whitman County Library Foundation for The Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kristie reviewed the strategic planning process, which will include input from staff, board and public along with insight from two local surveys and a number of professional library sources. The target date to have the final strategic plan is November.

Library Supporter of the Month is Carol Cauley from LaCrosse. Carol volunteers her time to clean the library and the Gathering Place in the Market Building and does so much for the LaCrosse Community Pride. Scott Ackerman will be the next supporter of the month. Scott chose WCL as an agency to promote in radio ads for Ackerman Heating, which has a value of \$2500 to the library!

Kristie reviewed the “Rules of the Library” as Policy of the Month. There was a brief discussion on the rules, which followed with some recommendations for minor changes.

Kristie announced that Sara McKnight will be assisting her with library promotions. She shared Sara’s recent article in the Daily News.

Kristie gave all board members an adult summer reading form and encouraged their participation. Although board members are exempt from winning grand prizes, they will receive a coffee certificate if they complete the form.

Kristie announced that Andrew Wahl will be presenting at several WCL locations June 24-27. Please mark your calendars to attend if you are able.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, July 20 in Palouse. The library van will leave Colfax at 4:00 for a tour of Garfield and Palouse branches.

Peggy Bryan, Secretary

Chuck Petras, Board Chair