



MOUNT VERNON CITY LIBRARY
315 Snoqualmie Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 24th, 2023

Minutes

5:30 P.M. – Office

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. Kalohi Clark, Joan Gordon, Jessica Robinson-Bylund, Lyne Olson, Christi Brua Weaver, Erin von Fempe, Shannon Bowman-Sarkisian, Isaac Huffman, and Mary Hoskins-Clark attended.

Action

B. Approval of the minutes of the July 13th, 2023 Board Meeting

Jessica motioned to approve. Lyne seconded. Minutes were approved.

Decision

C. Visitors

None were present.

Note

D. Statistics

Statistics have increased overall compared to last year, but we are seeing a slowdown in the number of new borrower accounts. There continues to be a heavier demand in Youth Services. Adult demand is coming back more slowly. Attendance in youth summer programs was high. Since schools are closed, outreach statistics are lower. A board member asked how these statistics compare to 2019. Monthly attendance in 2019 was around 8,000 and we are currently averaging around 7,000. Circulation statistics are not as far off. A board member asked how attendance is tracked. It is a raw door count using a sensor. We have noticed a shift in behavior post pandemic where people are in and out of the library and not staying all day.

Discussion

There was a follow-up on two questions from the last meeting. A board member reported that Burlington Public Library has a music CDs collection. Database statistics are calculated differently in each database so the numbers can vary significantly. Library staff is able

to analyze usage of each database to help inform collection development.

E. Erin von Fempe talks IOS

The board invited Erin von Fempe, Integrated Outreach Services (IOS) Supervisor, to the meeting to learn more about the department. Erin presented information about IOS, which is a division of the Mount Vernon Police Department, including the reason and creation of the IOS team, trends and data, and what IOS does. One part of their mission is to help people belong in the community. There was discussion about possible ways in which the library can partner with IOS. A board member recognized that a lot more will be put on the library in the new building, and they want to ensure the library is resourced accordingly. Additionally, the board will continue to review and update policies to make the library as accessible as possible while keeping in mind the safety of staff and patrons. Shannon asked Erin for clarification on how and when to contact IOS for assistance for patrons.

Discussion

F. Budget Reports

In revenue, we submitted paperwork for the county interlocal agreement. A board member asked about library fines and recalled that the group had discussed an amnesty program. Isaac confirmed with the city attorney that it is within the purview of the board to discharge fines. The board would like to explore having two amnesty programs. One to discharge fines and the other to encourage the return of materials. It would be great to align these programs with the opening of the new building as a way to reconnect with former patrons. The board would like more information on the number of lost items and how many patrons have lost materials on their account.

Discussion

In expenditures, we continue to run over in the professional services budget line. A board member asked about the vehicle repair expense.

G. Director Report

Report

i. Construction

They are beginning to put the third deck on the building. There was a minor setback where one of the high-tension wires in the concrete broke. There is a remediation plan for this, and it shouldn't affect the timeline which is still on target for spring completion. On the finance side, we received good news about the Buy America exemption. The

Department of Transportation issued new diminutive costs guidelines whereby a raw percentage of the total cost of project can be exempt. It is likely that the TIFFIA loan will be signed soon which has a lower interest rate and longer loan period than a bond.

ii. General Updates

Beth Bermani, the Youth Services Librarian, has resigned. The position will be posted soon. A board member suggested that the position be advertised nationally.

Summer reading programs in youth services were popular with over 100 in attendance at each event and 200 at the tie dye event. It is great to see children connect with the library, especially those that started coming in because of the school district cards. A board member asked when the school district cards expire and what is the process for renewing. This is done behind the scenes, so the students do not need to do anything. The board is interested in knowing what percentage of the school district cards are being used.

The adult summer reading bingo card was well received with over 336 cards handed out and 96 returned.

H. Advisement

i. Note on Computer Accounts

Staff raised concerns about not requiring an ID for a computer account. In the past some patrons created multiple accounts which is one of the reasons that we moved to the ID requirement. The board discussed how they do not want to burden staff but want to reduce barriers to access. They asked if there could be a few generic computer accounts available for a person without an ID. Isaac will bring the issue back to staff for input.

ii. Card Exemption

The Mount Vernon Library Foundation sent a letter to the board requesting the card exemption discussed at last month's board meeting. They requested a card be issued for 1-year of service for every \$1,000 donated to the Mount Vernon Library Commons Capital Campaign. Donations of \$10,000 or more will extend a lifetime of service. Isaac checked with the city's legal department, and it is within board purview to grant this request.

Discussion

<p>I. Around the Table (trustee comments/questions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kalohi asked if the dates of summer reading can be extended both at the beginning and end. b. Shannon shared that Jesusita Leon-Palma received the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Pattie Johnston Outreach Award. c. Christi had no comment. d. Jessica and Lyne spoke about the board training they attended. e. Joan had no comment. 	Discussion
<p>J. Board Chair's Report</p> <p>None.</p>	Report
<p>K. Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 P.M.</p>	Action

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is Thursday, September 14th at 5:30 P.M.