02/21/2024 10:00 a.m. Library Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Sam Passey, Vail Batty, Mary Fontes, Amanda Jenkins, Heather McKee, Linda Nay, and Sonja Norton. Susan Horrocks excused.

Other Attendees: Stacia Watkins taking the minutes.

1. Welcome

The meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

The heading was changed on line 141 to read “9. Next Meeting Date” instead of “9. Adjourn” to match the agenda. Linda moved to approve the minutes as presented with the noted change. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Director’s Report – Sam Passey, Outgoing Library Director

Sam is stepping down as Library Director after nearly 18 years to accept a job at Colorado Mountain College as Associate Dean of Library Services. It is a new position for them and for him, so he will be acting as a sort of library pioneer in this position. His last day will be Friday, March 1st. He encouraged board members to view the words carved into the outside of the Library and keep those in mind when planning Library services. He also provided board members with an article (see Utah Public Notice Website for attachment).

Sam has become aware over the years of a gap between what the schools provide, what families need, and what the Library can provide. He was made aware of an opportunity through the tech college Student Center where he learned that many adults who want to complete their education need to have eighth grade math and English skills, but they don’t have those skills. There may be an opportunity there for us to collaborate and support those patrons who wish to continue their education.

On an interim basis, unless otherwise stated by the County, Chrystall Summarell shall act as director. Per Utah Code 9-7-507, “The library board of directors shall recommend to the county executive for appointment a competent person to serve as librarian. The county executive shall, within 30 days of the recommendation, either make the appointment or request that the library board submit another recommendation. The librarian shall be an employee of the county subject to the personnel policies, procedures, and compensation plans approved by the county executive and county legislative body. The librarian shall act as the executive officer for the library board.”

Sam recommends Chrystal Summarell for appointment as librarian.

We are working on the annual report and are awaiting the closing of the books to finalize that. The report will likely be presented at the next board meeting.

Heather presented a gift of appreciation to Sam on behalf of the library board for his service. Linda feels that the main priority of a library is to bring children in and instill early literacy. She thanked Sam for his work in making the Library a vital part of the community, for his calmness in handling difficult situations, and for his ability to see through to the center of a problem.

The Library is seeing a lot of updates and maintenance, like painting, new ceiling tiles, and the AV system, which will be updated March 20^{th}-21^{st}.

Sam would encourage the board to invite the Clerk Auditor or one of his deputies to come over and go through the fund balance.

4. Board Member Reports

None at this time. Sonja has been looking for ways to address how to support the Library without the truth in taxation increase being passed. She expressed that she did not have all the information that she needed to make the best decision to support the Library. There was some discussion about finances, tax decreases in the last decade, future taxation, and so on.

Sam recommends having the Heritage Museum report to the commission for the time being.

Sonja commented that the library board's support of the Library goes a long way, especially out in the community.

Sam discussed how several members of staff have been doing the jobs of two or more people when people have retired or moved on and positions have been combined. He discussed ways that a full-time position could be helpful in convening adult literacy and act as a liaison to help fill that gap. Stacia was recently promoted to a Librarian position, and Michelle Fuller has been acting as the Regional History Librarian over the Regional History Center.

Amanda wondered if, as Chrystal steps into his position as Interim Director, someone will need to be hired to fill her position as Assistant Director. Sam has found that it was helpful to take a breath and see how things settled, then make decisions as needs become apparent. He will leave those decisions to his successors.

Sam thanked the board for their support of the Library, for him, and for his family over the years.

5. Next Meeting Date

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the upstairs conference room.

There was some brief discussion about board member terms. We will follow up with the Clerk Auditor's office to confirm expiration dates.

Sam encouraged the board to consider foregoing the meeting in June for a variety of reasons.

6. Adjourn

Linda moved to adjourn the meeting. Amanda seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.