

Approved October 17, 2023

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

6:30pm, August 15, 2023

At the library and on zoom

Trustees present: on zoom, Dina Dubois. At the library: Shirley Montagne, Rob Rinaldi, Kathryn Price, Tania Aebi, and Carl Demrow. Also present: Jen Spanier, Library Director; Assistant Director Kimberly Hotelling (on zoom).

Shirley brought the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Rob moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting, Tania seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Shirley presented treasurer's report. We are in a bit of a better position now with income from the grant and from "Blue Hawaii". Rob noted that the garden tour brought in a bit less than last year- Shirley mentioned that it rained for one of the days and we had less corporate sponsorship, but Ann Peck is planning to do it again next year.

We received \$32K in reimbursement from the afterschool/camp program- that covers March and April. May and June have been submitted, June and July have yet to be submitted. Shirley is creatively managing our liquid assets to preserve cash flow until the reimbursements come through. There has been nothing surprising in our operating expenses, though we had the elevator invoice which still didn't fix the problem with the weights. Rob made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Carl seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Shirley will next be looking to redeem a number of savings bonds that the library holds. Tania mentioned that she did give the books that may be of some value to Lois Jackson to be sold, and Lois is also willing to manage the auction of the first edition of The Prophet that Ken Linge pulled out from some donations.

Jen started into the Directors report- all of our circulation, visitors, program participants metrics are up this summer. Junior library guild is becoming more and more expensive, so she is considering not renewing it. Rob suggested writing them to ask for a lower rate. Wendy Heidenreich is looking to retire as story hour volunteer. Julia is able to be a sub but does not want to do each week. There was some widespread sentiment that Dina would make a great story hour leader and Dina will consider it. The summer reading program is nearly complete. Finale program is Saturday morning. Two outdoor movie nights were held and Zoe Tilley Poster gave a reading of her award winning book The Night Wild. The robotics team is starting to take shape- 10 kids are signed on. Jen will be writing grants to cover the expenses for robotics.

Erica Venuti's paintings are on display in the library. Rob moved to approve the directors report and Kathryn seconded. Unanimously approved.

Rob gave a quick report from buildings and grounds. B&G replaced the cover on the tent and the flag halyard. Rob also made sure the panel was put back together again after the Blue Hawaii folks tied into it. The board voted on a motion by Rob and seconded by Carl to approve spending money to get the septic tank pumped out - Shirley didn't know when it was ever pumped out.

Rob and Tania gave a quick report on the afterschool/camp programs. The camp program moved to Tania's fathers place for the last 10 days of the program. The camp was fully or nearly fully subscribed for the entire run of the camp program this year.

Dina asked to have a brief discussion about the garden tour regarding the number of days in the tour.

It was mentioned that the Corinth Historical Society participated in the Garden Tour and staffed their building for two days but did not get much in the way of donations. Rob made a motion to donate \$50 to the historical society and Kathryn seconded. Passed unanimously.

Dina brought up number of recent banned books articles and legislation unfriendly to libraries in other states. She would like to consider possibly doing a "Banned on the Road" tour with her caravan.

We had a discussion about the association meeting that is required by our bylaws. We will hold the meeting on Sept 19th from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and Kathryn seconded, meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, secretary