

Minutes
Nobles County Library Board of Directors
Monday, September 14, 2020

- **The following board members were in attendance:** Kathy Craun, Mary Ingenthron, Peg Faber, Charlene Wintz, Andrea Duarte-Alonso and County Commissioner Gene Metz
- **Present library staff:** Library Director David Bradford and Office Support Marci Moshier
- **Others present:** The Globe reporter Julie Buntjer

Call to Order:

Kathy Craun called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

None.

M/S/P: Faber/Wintz

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

The board reviewed the minutes from the August 2020 board meeting.

M/S/P: Ingenthron/Wintz

Reports:

Financial:

The August 2020 financials were reviewed. David Bradford adds that we're still waiting on the final items from the Catholic Charities Grant. He reports that we got the children's computer and are waiting for IT to set it up as well as bring another computer for the children's room. David is hopeful that the kids that come in after school will play on those computers for 30 minutes instead of the main computer area.

M/S/P: Faber/Ingenthron

Claims:

The August 2020 claims were reviewed.

M/S/P: Wintz/Duarte-Alonso

Circulation:

The board reviewed the circulation reports for August 2020. Kathy Craun is curious what the difference is between Overdrive and RbDigital – David Bradford explains that they're different vendors for now but that they are merging. RbDigital is all audiobooks in one collection where with Overdrive you buy the actual book but not a collection of them. He adds that Plum Creek purchases them; with Overdrive some are bought and you have forever, some have a certain number of checkouts or months and then they're gone.

PCLS Report:

Gene Metz reports that two part time delivery drivers are lined up but that the background checks are still pending. He adds that with having both of the drivers they should be able to cover the routes. Wednesday is the executive meeting and they will decide about a van, possibly seeing if something is available. Gene adds that things are still going well without having a director; Michele from Marshall is still covering the position part time.

Old Business:

▪ **Employee Update – Adult Services Librarian and Library Page – Adrian**

- David Bradford updates the board that Adrian's new Library Page has started, her name is Jerre Wiertzema. She trained in Worthington with Laurie Ebbers last week and will train with Christy Hornstein in Adrian

this week. The Adult Services Librarian position has not been filled yet; there was an offer made to one person but they turned it down. There are more in-person interviews next week.

- **WELL Project Update and Discussion – Future Direction of the Library Building**

- David Bradford states that the County Commissioner's voted 4:1 to "drop" the WELL Project. Gene Metz adds that all three parties have dropped out but that the city is going to still do the athletic complex. There is much discussion about the future direction of the library building; Peg Faber doesn't know what the future will look like but the Guiding Document is a good thing to keep and some of the groundwork has already been done. Gene Metz adds that there are many unknowns for the State with the budget and economy and that 2021 will be a tough year for businesses and money. Kathy Craun would like to be a little more proactive than they have been in the past and be ready in case another opportunity comes up. David Bradford says programs are a big part of libraries but that we currently don't have space for that and that a little bit of direction from the County would be nice. David continues that if we have strategic options in writing already there then applying for grants may be possible. The Historical Society plans to have their office moved out of the library's basement by the end of the year but nothing definite about when their collection will be moved; that space will help. Discussion about expanding this building, buying lots across the street for more space/parking or to look at new spaces. The library board would like some direction from the County Commissioners; is it worth the time and effort to think of different avenues to pursue or will the County Commissioners not be behind it? Kathy Craun asks the Library Board – what does the community actually want? She adds that we represent certain people but what is the community's goal? Kathy also brings up money; the County cannot fund the whole thing and that we need other people that really support us to support us verbally and financially. Peg Faber voices that Adrian is a perfect example of how the city has to be behind a project; they did a fantastic job of fundraising for a new library. Gene Metz adds that it's a lot to ask a community for a several million dollar project and that the County, City and people all need to contribute. It is discussed to possibly extend the October library board meeting to discuss general strategy; David will reach out to Tom. Gene Metz will also talk to County Administrator, Tom Johnson, to see what the overall feeling is for working on the current library building, as well as to figure out how hard to pursue looking at something or not to pursue anything at this time.

New Business:

- **JBS Home Town Strong – Grant Money**

- Discussion flowed from the library building into the JBS Grant. David Bradford explains that there is a grant out there and he talked to JBS about possibly buying different Ebooks in Spanish but that he hasn't heard back yet. He is waiting to see if that idea is something that should be pursued or not. David goes on to explain that there is close to zero percent in Spanish in Plum Creek. Kathy Craun asks again, what does this community want? Charlene Wintz adds that it seems like the children's programming is a good way to bring people in and maybe that's where we go with whatever funds are available, as well as the adult programming to bring new people in. It is asked what the details are of the grant; it isn't fully known but Andrea Duarte-Alonso will check into it more, as she explained to the board that the website doesn't say much about it either but she believes the intent is to help JBS employees and the community. The Board wraps up the discussion with Mary Ingenthron saying that the money is going out to somebody and that we might as well be a part of it, David Bradford adds that we need to at least ask.

- **Future Open Hours – Worthington**

- David Bradford states as we get more fully staff more hours can be added back; good time to change hours if we want to. We are still currently 9 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday. He continues that the staff has voiced their opinions in the attached letter. Kathy Craun voices that the staff has a legitimate reason of opening at 8 am again for the reason of people going out early to go shopping and moms dropping off their kids at school. The board discusses that between 7 and 8 in the evening the numbers are lower and question if being open until 8 pm is really necessary. David Bradford adds that he didn't find any branch in Minnesota that opened before 9 am; Peg adds that just because nobody else opens at 8 am, doesn't mean that we can't. The board discusses opening at 8 am and closing at 7 p.m. David adds that other thoughts are being open longer on Fridays and weekends. Charlene Wintz is hesitant in changing hours right now, as fluctuation might be hard. David responds that we don't have to change them but it would be a good time, if we want to, as going back to 'normal' hours and then switching again to new hours might be hard. Mary Ingenthron

notes that the staff has concerns and Peg Faber adds that they did a nice job on the letter. David Bradford agrees that this input has been great but everything he has been hearing is about the people we currently serve; what about the people that aren't being reached? More discussion on reaching new people, in the past there used to be summer hours and work hours, people stop on their way home, etc. The board does not decide one way or another at this time.

Other:

After-School Programs

- David Bradford informs the board that Jackie's programs will be starting back up but that the schedule changed a little bit due to Worthington school's schedule. After-school programs used to be on Tuesday and Wednesday, now they will be on Tuesday and Thursday. He adds that the Summer Carnival was smaller than usual but that it went good with around 105 kids and they had fun. There was a movie night at the fairgrounds which went over good as well and they will be do that again next year. Jackie also did I Spy, the story strolls, Bingo; different things for people.

Hotspots

- David Bradford reports that Worthington library has six hotspots available for being checked out and that Adrian library has four. They can be checked out for a week, first come first serve, no renewals, a heavy overdue fine of \$6.00/day. Andrea Duarte-Alonso just checked out one today and shows the board what they look like.

Minnesota Energy – Conservation Kits

- David Bradford informs the board that in the past, during Turkey Day, Minnesota Energy handed out water conservation kits and asked the library to do so this year. We agreed to do so and have them available at the front desk. They sent out an e-mail to their customer list on September 14th for people to pick them up at the library.

Scholastic Research Databases

- David Bradford would like to briefly talk about different databases that are available for children through our website. They are BookFlix, Science Flix and also the Watch and Learn Library. There are handouts available and the schools have been given some information and in the next week more handouts will arrive from Scholastic to distribute.

Adjournment:

- Kathy Craun asks the board what they would like to do for the board meeting in October – it is agreed to do the meeting next month the same as today, in the library's work room and wearing masks.

M/S/P: Wintz/Faber

Next Meeting:

Monday, October 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the library's work room.

Respectfully submitted, Marci Moshier, Office Support