

Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Roll Call: The Heartland Regional Library Board met at the Iberia Library for the October meeting. Vice President Nora Bond called the meeting to order at 6:00. Board members present were Nora Bond, Brittany Davenport, Denise Tyler, April Noblett, Ralf Trusty, and Lerilee Huhman. Stacey Dunham and Rachel Williams attended via Zoom. Carole Wagner and Eleanor Terry were absent. Staff members present were Director Lisa Garro, Lysha Thompson and Chrissi Germann.

Approval of Minutes: After a brief discussion, Ralf made the motion to approve the minutes and Denise seconded. All approved.

Financial Reports: Following discussion, financial reports were approved on a motion made by Brittany and second by April.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: Ralf made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures and transfer of funds, and Lerilee seconded. Motion passed.

Director's/Librarians' Reports: The director reported on the following:

- New hire at Eldon - Jerry Edwards started on Oct 9th. He has a passion for genealogy and will be an asset to the library system.
- Resignation letter by Penny Fuller at the Belle branch was recently received.
- All branches have updated copy machines. Color copies are now costing .60 cents per copy, so the director asked to increase the charge to patrons to .75 per copy (previously .50). April made the motion and Brittany seconded and all approved.
- The quarterly staff meeting was held at Belle on October 11th. Items discussed:
 - Clarified some office procedures
 - Guidelines for handling political and religious issues
 - Need to communicate and follow guidelines and library policies when creating programming
 - Upcoming holiday schedules and need to coordinate vacations to avoid conflicts
 - Final staff meeting for 2024 is scheduled on Friday December 13th followed by holiday party
- Update on the Belle Library expansion –will be soliciting bids for the renovation project.
- Update on bank building in Eldon - held recent conversation with the owner. The current value is \$900,000. The owner's realtor found the property in poor condition. Now they are considering doing renovations to update the building and this may increase the cost to approximately \$1.5 million. The director suggested the owner could consider donating a portion or all of the property to benefit from a tax deduction. He agreed to discuss this possibility with his accountant.

- Exploring the possible acquisition of the vacant Dollar Tree buildings in Belle and Vienna. Asked the builder about structural integrity of the floors and the cost - estimated to be \$600,000-\$700,000 for each building. Also exploring funding opportunities.
- Reported on attending MLA conference - many outstanding sessions. Two take away ideas - plan to implement a Memory Lab using the new podcast recording equipment. Patrons can record their personal stories. Another project will be hosting Digitization Days where patrons can bring photos and memorabilia to be scanned and saved to flash drives or other storage devices that the patron provides.
- Extra holiday dates for closing have been proposed to be December 24 and 31. Brittany made the motion, Ralf seconded and all approved.

Chrissi and Lysha gave their reports and updated stats. The home school group has enjoyed programming with Lego projects and now with cardboard engineering— a make-do project. NorthStar Digital Literacy (from the state library) will be introduced next week in Eldon and Vienna. The VETNOW— programming for all ages of veterans has been scheduled for each branch in November. November Crafternoon has also been scheduled.

Communications: A letter was received from the person who has been washing windows at the Eldon Library. He is retiring and suggested names of a few people that might be interested in the job.

Unfinished Business: Possible building acquisitions were covered above in the Director's report.

New Business: None

District Library Board Reports: None

Committee Reports: No reports given. The nominating committee was formed to prepare a slate of potential officers for next year. Denise and Lerilee volunteered to serve on the committee.

HRLS Policies: The Benefits section will be covered next month.

Adjournment: Ralf made the motion to adjourn at 7:00 to move into closed session and Denise seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.

Executive Session: Held

Recalled to order: The regular HRLS meeting was called back into session following the executive session.

Adjournment: Denise made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 and Brittany seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, acting HRLS secretary