

Whitman County Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Whitman County Library, Colfax
February 18, 2020

Present: Cindy Alred, Kristie Kirkpatrick, Steve Balzarini, Bob Bates, Shirley Cornelius, and Sheri Miller

Chairman Steve Balzarini called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m.

There were no additions or modifications to the agenda.

New Business:

Kathy Buchholz gave a brief update on current Whitman County Heritage projects including a collection of Pine City photographs, photos from Stephen Jones of the National Conservation Reserve Society depicting historic projects, a land deed from Colton and a 1907 publication from a Seattle magazine called The Coast, featuring a wide variety of interesting local history. Kathy is also working with Matt Davis of the Dick Davis family and the family of Cashup Davis to possibly display part of his collection.

February Library Supporter of the month is Stateline Processors of Tekoa and the Heaton Family who've owned it since 1962. The March Supporter of the month is the St John/Endicott schools for their partnership with the library in various after school STEAM projects. Nichole will present the award at an upcoming program.

WCL staffers will be taking on different roles in the coming months as Kristie shifts responsibilities in preparation for the transition to a new director. Sheri Miller is taking over more day to day responsibilities as Associate Director.

Upcoming programs include the premier of the May's Vote, a play honoring the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage on Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00 PM.

Planning continues for the Robert Osborne film festival with a tentative date of May 5th or 6th. Working closely with Robert's family and Turner Movie Classics, Kathy is digitalizing photos of Robert Osborne for our Whitman County Heritage online collection and developing an exhibit to accompany the annual event.

2020 is the 75th anniversary of the Library district. Staff is exploring different options for a celebrating including news releases, a banner for parades and celebrations in each branch.

With the assistance of an enthused community member, WCL has recently applied for two grants; a healthy living grant through Innovia Foundation and the other is a \$10,000 grant to the METER Foundation to improve the interior of the Albion Library.

Continuing Business:

The director search is progressing with the first official announcement going out on March 10 during the State Director's meeting. The position will be posted on the library website at that

time with official advertising beginning in April. The Board will also make an official announcement of Kristie's retirement the vacancy in conjunction with advertising for the open position.

Monthly Business:

Minutes from the January 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of the board.

Financial reports including the January payroll and accounts payable vouchers of \$95,414.94 were presented to the Board. There was no additional discussion and Resolutions #2020-03 and #2020-04 was approved by a vote of the board.

For January, traditional circulation saw a slight decline system-wide but Palouse and St. John branches posted strong increases. Use of downloadable books continues to rise. This is concerning for WCL's budget as more and more publishers restrict sales to libraries and costs continue to rise.

Program attendance dropped slightly system-wide in all age categories but still remains quite strong.

WCL added 45 new patrons in January of 2020. Taking a closer look, 415 new patrons were added in 2019, or an average of 43 per month. This indicates new patronage was stable for the month.

Upcoming Board Meetings and trainings:

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 16 at 4 p.m. at the Colfax Library.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Shirley Cornelius, Secretary

Steve Balzarini, Vice Chair