

**Whitman County Library
Board of Trustees Meeting**
Public Meeting by Zoom
April 20,2021

Present: Kylie Fullmer, Steve Balzarini, Heather Lustig, Suzanne Schmick, Ronda Penwell, Sheri Miller, Shirley Cornelius, and guest Sue Kreikemeier.

Chair Heather Lustig called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

There is one modification to the agenda in that the Policy Review under continuing business will not be discussed in this meeting.

New Business:

Whitman County Library is part of a nationwide recall of Verizon hotspots that were given to schools and libraries as part of a COVID relief grant. Over 2 million hotspots have been recalled because of issues of overheating. Because the recall is so widespread, we anticipate long delays in receiving replacements. In the meantime, four hotspots have been purchased off eBay to ease the demand we have for them.

Rachelle Marshall, reference librarian, recently resigned from the library on March 31 to run her family business, Cougar Graphics. She will continue to help out as a substitute when she is available. In the meantime, the library has started interviewing for the position and hope to have a replacement in place by May 1. The position will be a Library 2 specialist with an emphasis on reference.

Sue Hallett, Friends President, has submitted an application to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to place the Colfax Library on the National Register of Historic Places. Besides being an important asset for our community, the recognition may help us secure grant funding in the future.

Continuing Business:

Sue Kreikemeier has officially submitted her application for the Trustee Vacancy, Position 2. This position will fill the vacancy created by a previous resignation and the term will go through the end of 2023. Because Sue was interviewed by the board in a previous month, it was determined by the board they would not have to conduct another interview. Sue was nominated by a vote of the board to fill Trustee Position 2. Kylie will submit the nomination to the County Commissioners for the official appointment.

Our work with McKinistry has been put on hold temporarily because of lack of resources to meet matching requirements needed for most of the projects that are currently being offered.

Monthly Business:

Minutes from the March 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of the board.

Financial reports including a statement of activity and financial position for the three months ending March 31 were presented to the board. April payroll and accounts payable vouchers of \$96,091.52 were also presented to the Board. There was no additional discussion and Resolutions #2021-08 and #2021-09 were approved by a vote of the board.

Whitman County has been moved back to Phase 2 from Phase 3 effective April 16. That includes going back from 50 to 25% capacity. Whitman County has received additional COVID funds and has reached out to stakeholders within the county for ideas on how to distribute the funds. Several employees have taken advantage of the administrative leave approved by the board earlier in the year for illness caused by receiving the vaccine. Employees continue to receive vaccines as they become available. Staff have received various comments on the mask policy as patrons question the use of masks after they have received the vaccine.

Kylie provided the Board with usage statistics for March. All number across the board are increasing again although it is hard to compare to last year as we were still open part of the time in early March 2020. Hotspots are gaining more popularity as they were checked out nine times last month. Home laptops were checked out eleven times.

The March supporter of the month is Beverly Pearce who was recognized for being not only "Library Bev" for the past ten years, but a strong advocated for the entire town of Palouse. From Haunted Palouse and Turkey Leg Runs to story time and cooking programs, and all of her many other library and volunteer activities over the years, she has touched so many lives in the Palouse community and will not soon be forgotten.

In branch updates, FEMA reached out to us on applying for relief funds for Malden but we do not qualify as our deductible on our insurance is too low for FEMA relief. The Town of Oakesdale is using its .09 funding to improve the entrance of the Oakesdale branch. Other branch programs include a spring reading program challenge, Penny Drive, Magic tricks to go, and Black-Out Poetry month.

Grants include the continued spending for the Schools Out WA grant with the implementation of Beanstack for summer reading challenges. The Friends of the Library received a small grant to create an outdoor reading area in front of the library. Kylie is also presenting tonight for County .09 funding for the Lacrosse Ice Age project.

Kylie included in the board packets information on Effective Meetings for Library Boards or Trustees. A brief discussion followed on how this could be incorporated into the library meetings in the future. The board decided that they would like to have a director's report included in the board packet that could then be discussed at the board meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 18 at 4:00 PM either by Zoom or in-person depending on state guidelines.

Executive Session:

The board went into executive session at 4:50 PM to review the performance of a public employee. They exited the session at 5:00 PM.

Heather adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

Shirley Cornelius

Shirley Cornelius, Secretary

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Heather Lustig

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Heather Lustig, Chair