Board of Trustees meeting on May 15, 2023

Present: Kris Ely, Stephen Spero, Jim O’Pecko, Eileen Baessler, George Conner, Ann Reed, Dawn Augenti, Kathy Matis, Vicky Calby, Craig Benson, Angie Zick, Joann Reimel, Angie Hall

Absent: Fred Cicilioni, Cathy Harter, Brian Lioni, Jason Miller, Chris Caterson

Call to Order: Steve Spero called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

This meeting was held at the Hallstead/Great Bend Branch Library.

Note: there was an issue with the Zoom meeting which led to the above absences.

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was passed.

A motion was made to approve the written reports. The motion was passed.

Hallstead/Great Bend report presented by Angie Hall:

Faith Mountain Christian Academy had two classrooms have field trips to the library. Library cards were provided to some attendees.

Hallstead Borough provides free rent and heat to the library. Shirley Smith is a new employee. True Colors will be a new community center, they have asked to help the library with summer reading. One summer project will be tie dye which will be done with True Colors and one summer program will be done there. The library will do free snacks this year rather than free lunches. Angie is hoping for a grant for summer reading programs.

Resource sharing is becoming important. This includes collaboration with other library districts. The amnesty program for library fines was successful in bringing back books and patrons to the library.

All board members are asked to like main library and branch and historical society facebook pages. Posts can also be put on “Montrose then and now” facebook page.

The date for the board meeting in October has been corrected.

The finance report was sent to all board members.

Pratt Memorial Library sent a letter to the library stating that there has been a misunderstanding on how payments have been made to Pratt from the library. They claim that since 2012 there has been an underpayment of $31,124, and they are asking to be made whole. Kris will send a request to Pratt Memorial Library asking for a breakdown of their accounting findings to which we will then respond. It is possible that there may be a statute of limitations relating to this funding issue.

The library received a check from the county last week.

The finance committee has been tasked with setting up an investment policy.

The fund-raising committee met about the lottery. Look at events in the county this summer where we could set up information booths. A chairperson is needed for entertainment at the lottery picnic. Library employees, Tall Pine employees and their guests will get free event tickets for the lottery. Tickets can be ordered online. Make sure that the branches get promotional information for the lottery. Flyers for the lottery will go out in the mail.

The Blueberry Festival planning is ongoing. We can expect $24K in corporate support. Blueberries for the festival will be donated.

Forest City expansion issues relating to lead paint. We can paint over with lead sealing paint (encapsulation). We need to investigate the availability of grants for this project. There is a consultant looking into how the library should be reconfigured with the new leased space.

The personnel committee has filed the administrator’s annual review and it is available for viewing by board members at the Montrose location upon request.

There are several motions from the policy committee. First the new circulation policy needs additional review before being presented to the board for approval.

The building use policy and meeting use policy were put forth. A motion was made and approved. A motion was made to approve the book donation policy and the motion passed. The conflict of interest had no changes and is accepted as is.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

The next meeting is in Montrose Library on June 20th. at 4:00 PM.



James A. O’Pecko - Recording Secretary