

Sparta Free Library
Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Koll at 5:01 PM.

Members present: Mary Von Ruden, Paul Lenz, Amy Bernath, Sandie Perry and Terry Putman. Also present were the Acting Library Directors, Youth Services Librarian Aimee Schreiber and Adult Services Librarian Kaycee Henderson. Trustee Reinhard Mueller was excused.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting were distributed. **Perry, seconded by Lenz, moved to accept the minutes. Motion carried.**

Finances: A printed income report reflecting income generated in January through April 2017 was shared, as well as a list of expenditures with comparison to budget for the same period. Trustee Bernath reported that, per City Treasurer Sund, the Library could simply write a check to the City of Sparta to offset the Rita Lund Fund expenses that had erroneously been charged to the library's operating budget. The check has not yet been written, as further investigation is required to determine if there were purchases above and beyond the interactive display unit that should be charged to the Rita Lund account. **Bernath, seconded by Lenz, moved to approve the bills. Motion carried.**

Directors Report:

Director hiring process: Seven applicants have submitted their resumes for the Library Director position. The Board Officers will review the resumes and determine which candidates warrant an interview.

Programming:

- Participation at April programs was, once again, excellent. The National Library Week Food For Fines forgiveness program collected more than twice the amount of food items than last year (294). Outreach storytimes at the Parenting Place (twice per month) are very successful. The Laura Ingalls Wilder presentation drew an audience of 30.
- In keeping with performance evaluation goals, Amy Weissenberger will be co-running a program in May.

Summer Reading Program: Brochures have been printed and are being distributed. Speeds Bike Shop has agreed to partner with the library again and has provided a grand prize bicycle. Youth Services Librarian Schreiber will be making presentations on the summer reading program at area schools, placing a brochure in the hand of every child.

Interactive Display: Youth Services Librarian Schreiber reported that Amazon will not allow the return of the interactive display unit. Trustee Von Ruden inquired if the equipment came with a warranty. President Koll recommended that further evaluation of the equipment be done to determine if it can be of use before action is considered for selling or repurposing to another city entity.

New Business:

- B&B Restoration will begin repair of the front steps soon. Per Trustee Perry, drawings & plans, colors, and materials list must be submitted to the City History Preservation Committee for approval.
- Adult Services Librarian Henderson reported that the Friends of the Sparta Free Library voted to disband at their May 22nd meeting. The Friends group's President, Renee Caldwell, has resigned due to illness in her family. A broadcast e-mail was sent to all members, soliciting volunteers to take over leadership/management of the organizations. None were forthcoming. Their Treasurer is researching methods to maintain the 501c3 status in a dormant state until the organization can re-group. All funds will be transferred to the Sparta Free Library.
- Trustee Lenz inquired about the installation of the new flagpole, noting that the Tilling Time Garden Club wants to know in order to proceed with their gardening plans.
- Trustee Von Ruden noted that she had addressed the City Council about the activities at the Library, and represented the Library's interests at the City Council's annual planning meeting. She also commended both Acting Co-Directors on their diligent efforts to keep the library thriving during the absence of a Director.

Items for Future Consideration:

- Report on the hiring process for the Library Director.
- Follow-up on B&B Restoration progress with the repair of the front steps.
- Report from the Building Committee about renovation/expansion process.
- Follow-up on Friends of the Sparta Free Library situation.

The next meeting will be the first Monday, June 5th, 5:00 p.m. – Library Lower Level – Multi-Purpose Room

Von Ruden, seconded by Perry, moved to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.