

Minutes of the James River Valley Library System Board of Directors
Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Board members present were Jay Nitschke, Char Freeberg, Pam Phillips, Joan Morris, Carolgene Wolf, Emaline Roorda, Gail Martin, and City Ex-Officio David Schloegel. Also present were Library Director Joe Rector and Assistant Director Jill Pfaff.

Jay called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

MINUTES

Carolgene made a motion to accept the August 11 minutes, seconded by Pam. 7 ayes, 0 nays. 0 absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Joe gave the financial report for the month of August.

Gail suggested getting some type of reward credit card that the library could be earning points on. She thought several of the ACH payments could be paid with that type of card. Joe said that he would look into it.

BILLS TO BE PAID, PAYROLL AS PAID, AND AUTO PAY AS PAID

Char made a motion to approve the bills to be paid, the payroll as paid, and auto pay as paid, seconded by Gail. Roll call vote showed 7 ayes, 0 nays. 0 absent. Motion carried.

SPACE NEEDS STUDY UPDATE

Char reported that she thought the 2nd space needs study meeting went well, and JLG Architects has done a good job listening to what everyone had to say. Joe reported that he still plans on holding a public meeting for the space needs study. Board members requested that Joe provide the JLG summary of the first meeting to board members that were unable to make that meeting.

IMPACT OF SCL BUDGET CUTS: EMPLOYEE COVID ACCOMMODATION

Joe requested an employee COVID accommodation. Joan asked if the accommodation has been reviewed by an attorney. She is concerned the accommodation may conflict with FMLA. Gail expressed concern about allowing the employee to return to their regular position after January 2022 because the board won't know where the budget will be then. Emmy made a motion to table the employee COVID accommodation until the next board meeting in order to seek the advice of an attorney.

IMPACT OF SCL BUDGET CUTS: OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

Joe requested the following other adjustments to accommodate the reduced budget:

1. Open ADPL 9:30 am M-F beginning Oct. 1 with BM staff at ADPL when available
2. Open SCL at noon M-F beginning Oct. 1
3. SCL open for one evening program/week beginning in October
4. Reductions for SCL book/AV budgets & reduce Building Fund savings (handout)

Joan asked the rest of the board what the long-term plans are for SCL considering the fact there are duplicate services 10 blocks away. Emmy suggested waiting to see how Joe's plan goes over at SCL before making any long-term plans.

Joe: "We need a commitment from our governing bodies, if they want Stutsman County Library closed physically and truly closed, then they need to help us transition to a new or unified facility.... I'm personally not willing to just say, 'hey, close the library and hope for the best.'"

Joan: "My feeling is we're telling the taxpayer that we're willing to spend \$80,000 a year on duplicate services. If I was a taxpayer, I'd be calling my City Council. Why are we spending that kind of money? And I think as a board, we have a responsibility to the taxpayer; that's where I'm coming from."

Pam made a motion to accept the budget adjustments as presented by Joe, seconded by Char. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes, 2 nays (Gail & Joan). 0 absent. Motion carried.

COVID RECOMMENDATIONS

Joe asked the board to allow the following COVID recommendations:

1. Enter Phase 3 on October 1
2. Resume adult programming October 1
3. Return patron chairs to library
4. Bookmobile protocols will be individualized for schools and daycares

Carolgene made a motion to accept the COVID recommendations as presented by Joe, seconded by Char. Roll call vote showed 7 ayes, 0 nays. 0 absent. Motion carried.

CABINETRY FOR LIBRARY OF THINGS

Joe presented a bid from S&S Cabinets for 3 cabinets at SCL for the Library of Things. The Library of Things cabinetry would not be coming out of the library budget and will be paid by the Friends using money donated for that purpose.

Joan: "Personally, to me, the Library of Things is something that I really do not think is necessary to have at this point and time. I think that it is not a core library service, and I think if you told the taxpayers that they were spending \$80,000 a year for someone to check out a cake pan, I just don't think taxpayers would be willing to do that."

Dave: "The Library of Things, I think, is a very interesting concept that is spreading around all over. I would view it as kind of an evolution of what a library is. Obviously, we'll have books as long as we can, but in the digital age, it's so easy to find information digitally. When defining what a library is, it's not just the books on the shelves but other services. It's something provided to the community. It is money that will provide these things and these new services. It is a benefit to the community that everyone has access to."

Joan: "I agree with that, I think it's a great program. My point, as I stated in the other meetings, we really obviously don't have a lot of room here [ADPL], so to justify keeping a library [SCL] open that gets 4 people an hour because you're going to set up a Library of Things. To me, that's not a good spend of taxpayer money. If it was part of this [ADPL], I'd say let's go for it."

Gail: "I feel like we should almost, as a board, we should have a retreat or something and talk about stuff, because everybody is always in a hurry to get out of here, but they don't want to talk about stuff, and I think we need to... I don't want to keep Stutsman County Library open just because we're going to have the Library of Things there."

Joe: "That's not just because of that, it's one feature of our overall services."

Jill: "When there is an overflow on the computers, we send them [patrons] over to Stutsman County Library.... If somebody has more time to research something, they can get sent over to Stutsman County Library.... There's so many things that we do over there including the programming. There's programming that we want to start. It's been a couple of years that we've wanted to start programming and it's getting shut down now because they want to shut the library down."

Pam made a motion to accept the bid from S&S Cabinets for 3 cabinets at SCL for the Library of Things, seconded by Char. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes, 2 nays (Gail and Joan). 0 absent. Motion carried.

MEETING ROOM CABINET PROJECT (FROM DONATION)

Joe presented a bid from S&S Cabinets for the meeting room cabinet project. The project is paid by a donation.

Pam made a motion to accept the bid from S&S Cabinets for the ADPL meeting room cabinets, seconded by Char. Roll call vote showed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Joe reported that the Friends are currently working on a new logo. Also, the Friends continue to take in money from the Library of Things appeal letter.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Joe presented statistics for the month of August.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 3:30 pm, ADPL.

ADJOURNMENT

Jay adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Pfaff