

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JEROME PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Jerome Public Library met in the library meeting room for their monthly meeting on March 9, 2021. In attendance were Assistant Chair Trevor Churchman, Sarah Sandridge, Deya Escalona Trochez, Chase Rogers, and Director Linda Mecham.

The meeting was called to order by Trevor Churchman at 5:11 p.m.

Agenda review – No changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes – Sarah Sandridge made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as written. Deya Escalona Trochez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report –The financial report was presented. We are 41% of the way through the fiscal year. We did receive our property tax revenue. That brought us to 48% of the expected revenue for the fiscal year. Expenditures are averaging 31.6%. Now that we have are expected revenue, we will begin purchasing budgeted items.

February 2021 bills were presented. Chase Rogers made a motion to approve the February 2021 bills. Sarah Sandridge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

- The library operations report was presented. Circulation was not better than last year's preCOVID stats. We are seeing a particular drop still in movie checkouts. However, we are seeing a substantial rise in eAudio usage. Program attendance has started its gradual rise so that we are approaching previous years' attendance. We did do an outreach activity this month that was very successful. It was called Boots and Books. We partnered with the United Way. They received a supply of rain boots in various sizes. We saw about 75 children and 50 adults. This is a great opportunity to not only serve the needs of our community, but also to speak face-to-face with parents to highlight some of the library's programs and services. We plan to have similar events each spring prior to Kindergarten registration.
- The library fell into an unexpected opportunity. When it was time to renew our filtering software (which expired March 4), I didn't love the price tag and started looking into other options. First, I reached out to Carlos to find out what was involved in our filtering process. This was a 2-part setup: 1) a firewall for the public access computers, and 2) the CIPA filtering required to receive e-Rate funds. Next, I reached out to the state library for direction. Last year, several libraries serving a population of 10,000 or less received a grant that provided equipment upgrades, 5-years of software and support, plus the installation. Three libraries backed out of the grant. Because we were so close to the 10,000, and because the actual grant application was closed, we were able to pick up what the other libraries decided not to take on. This means the library will receive over \$30,000 worth of hardware, software and installation. Between the grant and e-Rate, the library will only pay about \$900 and will be set for 5 years before the need to renew filtering software.
- Director reached out to OverDrive because the Jerome School District had not been connected to the ICfL collection. Somehow they fell through the cracks, but didn't know it. We have filled out the paperwork so that the schools will also be able to access our content. I will also be contacting Heritage Academy and the Valley School District about joining this.

New Business

- We need to count this meeting as our annual meeting according to the bylaws. This means that we need to elect officers. The board would like to table this election until our board chair can be present.
- The director brought the meeting room policy to the board for review. She would like the board to consider making the meeting room available for meetings, trainings and classes rather than opening it up for social events. We have not been making it available for social events for a year because we have had to store furnishings. Further, she would like to purchase a large screen TV which can be coupled with a laptop. This would make trainings and classes much more effective. Our current overhead projector needs to be replaced. A large screen TV would be an upgrade. We would also be able to put speakers up toward the back of the library to improve sound quality. The board agreed to make the change to exclude social events at the library but to allow the director the discretion of a case by case decision. The board will vote on the policy changes at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm