

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

June 14, 2021; 4:30 p.m.

Chairperson Melissa Bonorden called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, May 10, 2021, at the Austin Public Library. The meeting was conducted by videoconference via Zoom Meeting, as permitted by Minn. Stat. 13D.021 during the condition of a current health pandemic (COVID-19).

PRESENT: Melissa Bonorden, Sue Grove, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Jodi Krueger, Shannon Lysne, Stephanie Postma

ALSO PRESENT: Joyce Poshusta (City Council liaison), Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff

ABSENT: Jwokamer Debock, Alex Mayfield

AGENDA: Ted Hinchcliffe moved to approve the agenda as presented; Stephanie Postma seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Nitaya Jandragholica, seconded by Ted Hinchcliffe, to approve the May 10, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:

A motion made by Stephanie Postma was seconded by Shannon Lysne to approve the expenditures and accept the finance reports for A 2021. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

SELCO REPORT:

Sue Grove reported the SELCO's advocacy committee is working on profiles of Minnesota legislators to help target advocacy efforts to the specific areas of interest for the individual lawmakers. She also noted she has been nominated to a one-year term on the Executive Committee.

LIAISON REPORTS: None.

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

Julie Clinefelter provided a written operational report to the board and presented additional information regarding several of the topics covered.

Clinefelter noted the new open hours for the library began on June 1, and after a few days of adjustments, everything seems to be going well. Library staff members have heard many positive comments from patrons, who are very happy with the increased hours.

Director Clinefelter also provided an update on current programming, advising the outdoor Drag Queen Storytime went well with over 65 in attendance, and the Summer Reading Program kickoff was very well-received. Julie noted the library's Americorps summer intern, Eleanor Hinchcliffe, is doing a great job assisting Youth Services Librarian Jess Lind with the program. In adult programming, Clinefelter advised the Seed Library had to be put on hold until next spring, but some programs are planned for late summer and early fall in preparation for that launch. Finally, she reported the Minnesota Parks Pass checkout program is very popular and one user stated they heard about it on Julie's weekly KAUS radio spot.

Julie reminded board members of the upcoming 25th Anniversary celebration on June 30 and provided an update on the plans for the event. She stated she is still hoping to receive word from the State of Minnesota regarding whether or not the library has received the construction grant before the June 30 party. She also noted she is still waiting to receive information and a cost estimate on repurposing the former book drop room and altering the entrance areas to better accommodate curbside service.

Clinefelter discussed upcoming board meetings, noting the July meeting would still likely fall under the emergency authorization for meeting via Zoom, but following that meeting, the board will probably need to return to in-person meetings. She will verify the parameters with the City attorney as to whether board members will be allowed to appear by phone or video at future meetings, absent the pandemic authorization. Julie advised she will be on vacation during the week of the August board meeting, so the board can either meet in her absence or cancel that meeting if no urgent business is on the agenda. The board will discuss at the July meeting.

Julie advised she has talked with the president of the Friends of the Library regarding the possibilities of holding their annual used book sales at the library again this fall. Due to a variety of circumstances, including changes in open hours, limited accessibility to the meeting rooms due to the curbside desk and other factors, having the book sale at the library this fall is not feasible. Julie is working with the Friends to explore other possible venues and to make plans for the spring sale.

In conclusion, Clinefelter informed the board of the difficulties presented for individuals who are in the community temporarily (either due to experiencing homelessness, staying in transitional housing, or undergoing treatment in a local facility), who wish to check out library materials. She asked the board to begin consideration of how to handle such requests, weighing the desire to provide services and assure equitable treatment with the need to serve as stewards of library materials on behalf of the community (as materials often do not get returned when individuals leave the area).

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Sue Grove moved to adjourn at 5:10 p.m.; Shannon Lysne seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Steinhoff, Recording Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, July 12, 2021, 4:30 p.m.