

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2021; 4:30 p.m.

Chairperson Melissa Bonorden called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:40 p.m., on Monday, November 8, 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, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Jodi Krueger, Shannon Lysne, Alex Mayfield, Stephanie Postma

ALSO PRESENT: Joyce Poshusta (City Council), Jeff Baldus (County Commissioner), Kristi Beckman (incoming board member), Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff

ABSENT (WITH PRIOR NOTICE): Jwokamer Debock, Sue Grove

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Ted Hinchcliffe, seconded by Jodi Krueger, to approve the October 11, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:

Stephanie Postma inquired as to whether the updated financial report reflected expenses at a usual and expected level for this time of year. Julie Clinefelter advised the expenses are consistent with previous years and expenses are on track to come in slightly under budget. A motion made by Stephanie Postma was seconded by Ted Hinchcliffe to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for October 2021. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

SELCO REPORT: None.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Jeff Baldus provided an update on the county's current business items, which include review of septic system ordinances to improve water quality.

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

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

Julie advised that while the Staff Development Day is currently on hold until 2022, she has started doing scheduled one-on-one meetings with staff and has completed most of the annual reviews.

In regards to networking, Julie noted the Blandin Broadband Committee is doing a survey, and she encouraged board members to participate.

In programming, Julie reported the first Reading for Life lecture had a small turnout, but KSMQ will be helping to promote future events in the series. There is also a plan to change up the structure of the discussions to encourage more conversation among participants.

Clinefelter also advised the number of new-card registrations continues to go up, and two new programs, led by volunteers (with staff support and coordination) are starting – a Sit & Knit program on Monday evenings, and a four-week basic sewing skills class.

Director Clinefelter noted she attended a recent food distribution event with library clerk Nelly Cruz. The event was organized by CLUES and Riverland, and designed to reach Spanish-language-

speaking community members and families. Julie advised they distributed information on library programs and services, and answered questions. Nitaya Jandragholica noted that following the event, the Spanish-language book club welcomed three new members.

Clinefelter gave an update on marketing efforts, noting visits to the library's website peaked during the summer at about 4,300 sessions per month, and the social media accounts are showing some growth as well. She also commented the weekly radio appearances seem to be reaching people, and she has extended the agreement with KAUS for another three months.

Julie advised a roof leak was discovered when a drip occurred in the library during a heavy rainfall. The repair estimate is \$8,500, and there are sufficient funds in the library's regular budget to cover the cost.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Director Clinefelter introduced Kristi Beckman, who will be joining the library board in January 2022, filling the vacancy when Jodi Krueger's term expires. Kristi is the Equity Director at Austin Public Schools, a former member of the Human Rights Commission, and an avid library patron.

Clinefelter also noted the issue of temporary borrower cards or agency cards for area group homes and residents, which had been discussed in previous board meeting, has been resolved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Stephanie Postma moved to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.; Jodi Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Steinhoff, Recording Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, 4:30 p.m.