

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

May 10, 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, Jwokamer Debock, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Jodi Krueger, Shannon Lysne, Alex Mayfield

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Baldus (County Commissioner liaison), Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff, Emily Soltis

ABSENT: Sue Grove, Stephanie Postma

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Alex Mayfield, seconded by Ted Hinchcliffe, to approve the April 12, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:

A motion made by Alex Mayfield was seconded by Ted Hinchcliffe to approve the expenditures and accept the finance reports for A 2021. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

LIAISON REPORTS:

County Commissioner Jeff Baldus advised Mower County will participate in a national conference call to discuss distribution and use of COVID relief funds.

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

Julie Clinefelter provided a written operational report to the board and presented additional information regarding several of the topics covered. She started her report by introducing Technical Services Librarian Emily Soltis, who was in attendance.

Clinefelter reported on a number of programs currently in the planning stage, which include circulating a pass for Minnesota State Parks, a dementia training program, development of a seed library, and finalizing plans for summer activities and events.

Director Clinefelter also provided an update on staffing, advising that the clerk recently hired declined the position after one day due to another job offer, so a current library page is being trained on clerk duties to fill that position for the next several months.

Julie noted she is 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. Grant funds are currently available for such projects through the state.

Clinefelter discussed updates to the plan for expanding hours and easing pandemic restrictions for the summer. She noted most of the programs for summer reading will take place outdoors or virtually, and many of the activities and crafts will utilize take-home kits. She also advised the youth services librarian will provide outreach programs at city parks throughout the summer. Board members were in agreement with the plan to expand hours as of June 1 with modified restrictions.

Julie concluded with reminders of upcoming dates for the Social Justice Book Club (May 20), the Austin Page Turners event (May 22), and the upcoming 25th Anniversary Party on June 30.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Director Clinefelter congratulated Melissa Bonorden on publication of her new children's book.

SELCO REPORT:

Julie Clinefelter noted SELCO is working on its strategic plan for 2023-2025, and is currently focusing efforts on advocacy work on behalf of libraries. She also advised the 2020 statistics will not be included in calculation of member library SELCO fees due to the pandemic-related anomalies.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ted Hinchcliffe thanked Emily Soltis for her work and her presence at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jodi Krueger moved to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.; Shannon Lysne seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Steinhoff, Recording Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, June 14, 2021, 4:30 p.m.