

Subject: Minutes from the UDPL Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Attendance: Library Director Cheri Fiory, President Janine Buesgen, Treasurer Wendy Rader, Secretary Andrea Merrick, and members Suanne Strauss, Gary Fisher, Cathy Murphy, and Joan Ryder Ludwig were all present.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the meeting was conducted using Zoom.

Also, in attendance via Zoom were Rebecca Lohoefer and Erin Woodruff from UDT.

President Buesgen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Welcome – Roll Call

President Buesgen welcomed all in attendance, conducted a roll call and advised everyone that the Rules and Protocols for Virtual Meeting are on the website should anyone have a question about the protocols.

Consent Agenda Items:

There being no objection, the Board moved, seconded, and approved the following items:

- (a) Minutes of the November 11, 2020 meeting**
- (b) Financial Reports for November / December 2020**
- (c) Librarian’s Reports for November / December 2020**

Director Fiory and Treasurer Rader advised that the December 2020 Financial Report was not final and could be modified.

There was a question about the level of borrowing during the “Pandemic” versus during normal times with full hours of operation. eBooks have been in higher demand during this time and overall borrowing was at about 50% of normal.

The consent agenda was accepted without change.

Public comment: There was no public comment.

Discussion items:

a) Friends Update

Cathy Murphy reported that: 1. There were no significant issues to report from the January 14, 2021 meeting. 2. The Treasurer is preparing a graphic to reflect the progress of the capital campaign and nature of donations. 3. Membership in the Friends shows 115 members renewed and there were 127 new members (with all donations being applied to the capital campaign). 4. Signage for the new library is under discussion with Director Fiory. 5. No date has yet been set for the Jewelry Sale. 6. The next Friends meeting will be held on February 11, 2021 at 1 PM. 7. The Book Sale will not be restarted in its previous format, but discussions are underway as to how to revamp it and maybe make it part of a gift shop/book sale in the Library. Volunteer commitment to this activity is anticipated at about 20 hrs./week.

b) Draft 2021 Goals

Construction of New Library- 1. There are some outstanding small items being worked on including outdoor lighting and training staff of building technology. 2. Site work- Signage is under consideration including at the Service Window and ramp extending to Highland Ave. More lighting is needed in parts of the parking area and around the building. 3. Children’s Garden/Play Area is set for a future stage. 4. Extending the cross county trail to the library already has some grant money allocated but more is needed. 5. Opening and expanding Library hours and access. Hopefully during 2021 this can be achieved albeit not at the 60 hr./week level. 6. Director Fiory is Chairperson of the MCLINC Strategic Planning Committee. There are discussions underway about MCLINC’s mission and how it functions and the format of its reporting. On a side note, Director Fiory advised that there would be no annual report due for UDPL for 2020 to COVID-19.

c) Building/Reopening Plans

Library staff is discussing how best to start expanding hours and accessibility to the Library. Opening earlier on Saturdays starting in February and dropping the appointment requirement are likely to happen. Perhaps in March opening times can be ramped up and more space such as study rooms may be opened for use. Balancing these activities along with staffing needs, increases, need to be balanced. Some ideas being considered are letting UD residents reserve a room for 2 hrs. at a time no more than twice a week. The issue of tutors using space within the Library is not resolved. Trying to distinguish personal use of Library space from business use is being assessed to decide if different protocols should be followed. There is also thought about offering programs in June in person, but outdoors.

d) Capital Campaign Update, Review of Quotes

A lot of effort is underway. To date, \$603,000 has been raised (received and pledged) with more gifts anticipated. On the public side, the \$1.7M goal is still out there and includes the Auditorium (\$500K). There is thought to separating that space out and handling fundraising separately. The Committee is meeting and discussing this and other issues. The suggestion was made to have signage of some sort in the Library entrance to show the fundraising goals and success to date. A pie chart of gifts received is being prepared.

Quotes have been selected by donors and a list of suggested quotes is also available.

e) Fines

MCLINC is trying to eliminate fines but is still discussing how to bring consistency among all the libraries. The ALA has issued a statement saying fines are inequitable. Upper Moreland has eliminated all fines and Wm. Jeanes has done so for children’s’ books. Director Fiory will share more information about fines with the Board to consider. The consensus is moving to eliminate this practice.

f) Library Board Terms

3 members have terms expiring June 2021. They will be notified by the Township beforehand and given the opportunity to reapply. If anyone is not interested in continuing, Directory Fiory requested they speak to her as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

The next Library Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Andrea Merrick