Neosho Newton County Library Board Meeting

May 21, 2024

**Board Members Present:** Beth Styron, Jann Burnett, Karina Cole, Chris Yaudas, Comer Parks, and Phyllis Blackwood, Rick Keeling

**Board Members Absent:** Keri Collinsworth, Jake Heisten

**Library Staff Present:** Carrie Cline

President Beth Styron called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Introduction of Guests:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Consent Agenda: Minutes, Budgeted Expenses, Financial Report**

Chris moved to accept the consent agenda, with one correction to April minutes, and Jann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Director’s Report:**

* Monthly library statistics were reviewed. Circulation numbers were up and wifi usage has significantly increased as services have been expanded.
* The Farmer’s Market event was well-attended by an estimated 600-800 community members. Library staff distributed free books, offered face painting, and promoted the summer reading program.
* The summer reading program launched last week, with over 100 attendees (an impressive turnout with local schools still being in session). Animals were brought in (including a falcon, a hedgehog, and a snake) for children to learn about and interact with. This week’s program theme is travel. Participants will receive a program passport that will be stamped to indicate their continued involvement with the program throughout the summer. Library staff are working with community partners to plan activities for an upcoming events involving survival skills.
* The annual financial audit is on pace for completion.
* Another order has been placed to add leaves to the library community donor tree.
* The library partnered with the Stone County library to apply for a virtual reality (VR) grant. Two VR kits were awarded, which included equipment for VR viewing and a 360° camera that will allow users to create their own VR experience. One possible use of this equipment would be to provide realistic viewing experience “tours” of local landmarks (for example, Big Spring Park) to patrons at local senior centers.
* The library has lost its full-time contracted tech support employee. Starting June 1st, print lab staff members will start providing part-time in-house tech support services.
* The board needs to be aware of and plan for potential statewide increases to minimum wage (pending votes). If passed, minimum wage would increase to $13.75/hr next year and $15.00/hr in the following year.
* Carrie is traveling to Camdenton later this week to participate in the first ever LAGERS retirement conference.

**Old Business**

* Naming rights for the Seneca Library Project were reviewed and expanded to increase total potential donations to approximate estimated building costs. Board members and library staff will soon be planning in-person meetings with potential donors for the project. Marketing materials will include naming rights opportunities. Potential names for the campaign, including “Leave a ‘Little Town’ Legacy”, were discussed. Donors would have the option to disperse their contributions over time.

**New Business**

* There has been a motion for settlement in the Pearman Trust court case. Final judgment is pending, but the proposed settlement would require trustees to pay $5,000 to the library in accordance with the original language of the trust.

**Public Comments:** None

Phyllis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Comer seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karina Cole, Secretary