

Anna Porter Public Library
September 12, 2023 Minutes

6:02 p.m. Call to Order

Present: Debi Vernath, Karen Bentz, Pam Papworth, Lisa Oakley, Beverly Waldron, Kenton Temple, Sharon Mellor, Mandi Muehlhausen (Director).

Not Present: Tracy Starker, Sally Helton, Matthew Jordan (Regional Director).

Minutes of July 11, 2023 APPL Trustees Meeting stand as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Pam Papworth reported there has been no final budget approval from the city and the check which is due for the first quarter expenses has not been received. We can draw from the reserve fund if necessary.

A motion was made by Beverly Waldron to clarify that the library director can move budgeted funds between line items and categories of the approved budget, when necessary, without further board approval. 2nd by Kenton Temple. All approved.

The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Director's Report:

Mandie Muehlhausen's report was thorough as always and highlighted many successful and exciting programs for all ages (but particularly for children), administrative endeavors, and the great work of staff (she drew particular attention to our best year for participation in the summer reading program). Mandi was complemented and thanked for her energy and creativity.

Mandie is working on identifying folks to serve on 3-4 small focus groups to learn more about what they understand about the library and what interests they have that we can plug into. She is also developing a survey which will help gather data from residents and patrons. Board members should share people they know who would be good to invite to serve on the focus groups—please submit by October 6. There was good discussion on both topics.

A number of items shared by the director appear in the New Business section of minutes.

Regional Director's Report:

Matthew Jordon was not present.

Trustees Workshop is coming up on September 27th in Jefferson City.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee and Fundraising Committee have met/talked, but no reports.

Long Range Planning has not met but intends to soon.

New Business:

The board of directors suggested Mandi should join the Gatlinburg Rotary Club. Mandi has followed up accordingly. A specific service club expenses line item will be considered for next year's budget.

Mandie shared her interest in landscaping at the front of the library. She has been working on a concept for a bear sculpture she would create and which would be installed outside the library entrance (location to be determined). Mandie had the opportunity to discuss her project with the president of Treehouse who had some interest in a designing a "Bear Hunt" App which would function as a scavenger hunt for future bear sculptures that could be sponsored and installed in the area. App would sync through QR codes and provide interpretation, promotion, etc. Great tie in with tourist audience. In response to the discussion, an ad-hoc Facilities Committee was formed to work with Mandi on these projects. Karen Bentz and Kenton Temple volunteered for the committee.

Mandie updated the board of directors on a series of incidents with a patron who owes \$225.00 for an unreturned library hot spot (policy dictates process and fees). There have been several unpleasant encounters at the library with the patron, encounters which have grown in intensity. Mandie called the Gatlinburg Police Department in August because of the patron's aggressive language and actions. The officers talked with the patron and gave him until the following Monday to comply. He did not. Sevier County Sheriff's Department paperwork was completed, and he was served with a warrant. Board president Debi Vernath has been supporting and advising Mandi throughout the situation, and the full board gave support as well.

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Old Business:

The Smoky Mountain Cookbook Club has not had time to get together as of yet.

Debi Vernath moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.