

Library Board Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2016

Meeting called to order at 3:02pm by Joanne Parkes.

Members present:

Joanne Parkes
Dave Brown
Dorothy Renstrom
Marney Babbitt
Karla Brewster
Harriet Young

Members excused:

Patricia Horn

Library and other staff present:

Holland Christie
Will Ascarza
Heidi Hansen
Emily Eldridge

One new Board member, Marney Babbitt, was introduced.

Approval of Minutes:

Joanne had one change for the minute from February 25. She noticed that in paragraph 7 of the Library Director's report, there was one word that needed to be changed. The minutes were approved pending changes. (That change has since been made in the February 25 minutes).

Public Participation:

Heidi Hansen, the Director of Economic Vitality, was present and spoke briefly about the Library and their role in the division. The Library recently moved to the Economic Vitality department from Management Services. Economic Vitality includes the Airport, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Community Investment departments. Together, these departments work to enhance the quality of life for the citizens and visitors of Flagstaff.

Library Director's Report:

Reported by Holland Christie, Public Services Manager.

- 1) At the February meeting, the four LSTA grants that the Library was working on were mentioned. All four grants have been submitted prior to the deadline. They will hear back on those grants by May 1.
- 2) There are many upcoming programs happening at the Library. Book Talk Café happens monthly at the East Flagstaff Community Library. On March 24, a program about the history of cameras took place at 6pm and was presented by a camera collector. There are 3 discussion groups at the Downtown Library; they are Nonfiction Science (Undeniable, by Bill Nye) the Monthly Friends book, which includes popular fiction titles (To Kill a Mockingbird), and the Graphic Novels book discussion. Participants of the Friends book discussion will be attending the

NAU production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* as a group.

3) Flagstaff Reads takes place every year in September. The book that was chosen this year is called *The Underground Girls of Kabul*. The book is about girls in Afghanistan that are born into families as the third girl; it is common for these families to dress up the third girl as a boy and for her to be raised as a boy. They call these girls the underground girls. Programming has not been planned at this time because the book was just chosen.

4) In May, there will be collaborative health care screenings in partnership with Northern Arizona Healthcare. A librarian will also be present to show all of the health information that is available at the Library.

5) Library Week will take place April 10-16. The theme of the week is Libraries Transform.

6) Quilts in the Library are coming down on March 31st, and they will not be displayed again for another 2 years.

7) There are TVs in the library that previously displayed information slideshows on them, but are now set up and streaming videos in the lobby for more interaction and fun. EFCL has the same set up.

8) The Library is getting a few new databases! Will was able to negotiate a great price on these databases. Our contract was recently renewed with Recorded Books, the vendor that supplies to One Click Digital. This is a great service for audio books with some e-books mixed in. It is accessible from anywhere and comes in handy for those that live in remote areas in Coconino County. The vendor was here last week and additional products were discussed. Comics Plus and Indie Flicks are some of these. These new resources would provide even more online materials for the public. Indie Flicks even allows new and local artists and filmmakers to upload their films. Comics Plus has 15,000+ comic books, such as DC, which includes the original Superman and Batman series. They also have Archie, G.I. Joe, Transformers, X-Files, and more. This service is also beneficial because children sometimes handle comic books a little rougher and there can be damage; this resource may allow the library to cut back on replacement materials costs in the long run. These programs will start in May and will end in April of next year, with a possibility of renewal if the databases are used frequently. Any portable e-device and library card can get you access to these services. Harriet brought up the fact that services like these, more specifically Comics Plus, may benefit children in hospitals. Previously working in the children's hospital in Houston, Harriet noticed how important entertainment and resources like these are to children who are not able to get to a library. She suggested that the library market these new resources in the community, including at the hospital. One Click is for downloadable books, and the Library is still using Zinio for magazines. They are different vendors and do not relate to each other, so a user does need 2 different accounts to access either. Will mentions that there will be a two week trial period at the Library to test the service and to get staff more familiar.

9) Tablet Fridays are being moved to Tablet Tuesdays. Staff sits down with patrons and helps them figure out their tablet for as long as they need and with lots of patience.

10) National Screen-Free Week is May 2-6. From 3:30-5pm, Youth Services will be shutting off their computers and will activities available to show them there are other things to do without screens. Adult computers will be blocked for children as well so they aren't going out to the adult

area and doing the same thing. If the kids have homework to do, computers will be turned on.

Growth needs of libraries, affiliates, and branches:

Joanne asks if there a possibility of the Library opening on Sundays, and is there anything else the Board can do to assist with this topic? Heidi Hansen answered, letting everyone know that the request was taken to the budget team. It will also be brought up to City Council in April. June is probably when we will have a clearer answer if the Downtown Library will be open on Sundays. They are doing their best to find the funding, especially with requests to modify the building and adding things such as the RFID project. A way that the Board can help would be to reach out to Council Members. Karla is an advocate for opening on Sundays. It is known that opening on Sundays would be beneficial and that patrons would attend, it is more of a budgetary issue. It is also possible to stream the budget meetings to see what is said about the Library.

Heidi Hansen brought up the possibility of other Directors from the Economic Vitality Division attending the Library Board meetings and helping to inform the Board of other happenings in the Division, how the Library fits into the bigger picture and how everyone is reaching out to assist the community. It can be very effective for team work and has been very effective in the past.

Informational items from Board Members:

Karla believes it is a good plan to open on Sundays, since there is extra funding. Harriet says that AAW is having a brown bag lunch next week on the 30th at 11:30, in the City Hall conference room; there is not debate but there will be a discussion on financing education in Arizona. Invited speakers will present on the financial implications of any changes. They are going to do what they can to make the overall picture clearer so that people feel more confident about making this decision. Dave will not be at the May meeting. Joanne would like to have an agenda item to discuss the option of other Division Directors attending the Library Board meetings, on next month's agenda. It is Joanne's last meeting with the Board and she has really enjoyed being a part of it.

Close of meeting:

Harriet moves to adjourn the meeting at 3:40pm.