

Library Board Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2017

Meeting called to order by Dorothy Renstrom at 3:05 pm.

Members present:

Dave Browning
Dorothy Renstrom
Jim Parks, County Supervisor
Harriet Young

Members Excused:

Evin Dunn

Staff Liaison:

Heidi Holland, Library Director

Other Library Staff present:

Emily Eldridge, Administrative Specialist

Public Participation:

None

Approval of minutes from September 2017 meeting

Minutes approved with no corrections.

Library Director's Report- Heidi Holland

1. Informational items about the PALSmobile and Downtown Library passed around. Information item on Learning Express resource passed out. Learning Express allows Library patrons to access thousands of practice tests spanning a multitude of subjects. It is a free service.
2. Heidi announced her retirement from the position of Library Director. She has served in this position for 10 years, although she has worked in various other capacities at the Library for over 25 years. She was the director through the recession and worked hard to keep employees in their positions along with the Library open hours intact. She was also able to save money throughout the years for improvements and remodels in the facility, such as the carpet replacement, restroom remodel plus ADA compliancy, fireplace screens, RFID technology, new metal exterior sign, new IT server room, window replacements, and more. Her last day will be January 19, 2018.
3. A PowerPoint presentation was shown with photos and some details of the most recent projects that were completed at the Library. These included the new exterior sign, carpet replacement in the public area, and the public restroom remodel. The replaced flooring in the employee hallway and lounge was not displayed, but was also mentioned.
4. The Library is holding an encore event of Jim Babbitt discussing Flagstaff maps, as the first program was very successful and turnout was large. There will also be a Maya Angelou poetry reading program soon.
5. The Forest Lakes Librarian is planning on retiring in the near future but has not given a date at this time. In the past couple of years, the Forest Lakes Public Library has seen downward trends of patrons coming in. This could be due to the fact that less people are moving there and there are

less children in the community. Heidi shared some stats from year-to-year. Supervisor Parks mentioned that he will be going to Forest Lakes soon to recognize the Fire Department for their efforts over this past summer, and he would be happy to prepare something in Cheryl's honor as well to commemorate her time with the Library. The Library currently resides in a building belonging to the Chevelon Butte School District, which we are paying \$600/month for in rent. The school board has been in discussion to no longer charge the Library for rent of the building, so that might be something to look forward to.

Proposed New Meeting Times for the Library Board:

New times for the Library Board to meet in Council Chambers were discussed. After the Board moved to meet at a new time, Chambers were no longer available as another commission meets at that time. The City of Flagstaff remains committed to being transparent to the community, and the Deputy City Clerk is asking that we decide on a new meeting time at our earliest convenience. A list of openings was passed around, and Board members listed their preferences by best-least choice. Evin Dunn still needs to be consulted about his availability. Once all Board members have been consulted, Emily will send out the new meeting time and 2018 meeting dates.

Growth Needs of the Library

1. Heidi has been working on a re-org of the Library before she leaves her position. There will be two Deputy Library Directors, one that will oversee Flagstaff services and the other that will oversee County services (and serve as County Librarian). These two positions will report directly to the Library Director. The Administration office will also add 1 more position, as more assistance in that office has been needed for quite some time.
2. A project that will happen in the future is the remodel of the outdoor ramp to become ADA compliant. Heidi has set this project up so that Capital will be project managers. The Flagstaff Arts Commission and Beautification Committee are already signed up to assist with funding and the design of the new ramp.
3. The East Flagstaff Community Library has already been approved for a remodel project to add one children's bathroom in their Youth Services department. There are currently no facilities for children-only at that location.

Informational Items from Board Members

1. The DVD, "Islam-What the West Needs to Know", was discussed again (a patron had previously complained about this DVD, citing that it could cause Islamophobia). Supervisor Parks watched the DVD and reported back with his findings. He acknowledged that the DVD does not necessarily shed a positive light on Islam. The program interviewed various subjects and detailed their experiences with Islam. Some of them were negative, with people have been previously involved in the religion. He viewed the program as a warning of sorts. He also did not think it was necessary to censor the material by removing it from the shelf, rather, possibly post an advisory warning on it. It was noted that this material is normally shelved in the Adult DVDs

section. Dave took the DVD next to watch.

2. Dave mentioned a new interface that is available for Arizona veterans, called beconnectedaz.org. This site aims to connect veterans with any resources they may need for themselves and their families. This allows them to contact one agency that can connect them with multiple services, without veterans having to call all over town to service different needs. There is also an emergency/suicide phone line.

3. Harriet says the League of Women voters is hosting renowned sociologist, Theta Skocpol, and are having a public forum event. She is going to connect with Claudine Taillac to see if this event can be hosted or participate with the Library.

Meeting adjourned by Dorothy Renstrom at 4:24 pm.