

Wasco County Library Service District
Board meeting
January 17, 2023
Location: The Dalles, and via Zoom

Board members attending: Vicki Thomas, Mary Beechler, Tina Coleman

Library staff attending: Jeff Wavrunek, Valerie Stephenson

Meeting called to order: 4:37 p.m.

Minutes: No changes necessary, Tina Coleman moved to approve, seconded by Vicki Thomas

Visitors and interested parties: None

Director's Reports:

Maupin: There was good turnout for programs in December. We did the family craft like we do every year, and we also had Traveling Lantern Theater here in December. We still have Snap Dragon Yoga for kids on Saturdays twice a month. We started adult yoga in the stacks in December, but put it on hold in January to make sure people were interested. They are, and it will start again in February. We're still doing Cooking the Books, our cookbook club; it just keeps growing; this month we're doing Asian food. Starting to plan the summer reading program, coordinating with Rita. So far, we have six performers lined up for our summer reading program. Starting tonight at 5:00, Andrew Houck, a local chiropractor, is going to start doing a monthly series on spine healthcare. I'm working on writing a Wasco County Cultural Trust Grant to bring the Taiko drummers in for Maupin Days in May. I'm in the process of ordering the book-walk we talked about last fall. This will be a mobile display, that can be moved from park to park in the area. It's a collaborative project with the city parks department. The Museum of Natural History is sending their dinosaur exhibit, and that should arrive at the end of the week. Teachers at the schools have made appointments to bring their classes in one by one, and spend an hour at a time going through all the exhibits.

Dufur: Nothing sent via email

The Dalles: Union negotiations will begin soon; the contract is for the next 3 years. With the inflation rate, we are anticipating staff getting a pay raise. The 23/24 budget will not be finalized until contract negotiations are complete. Unfortunately, during the month of December, there were a couple of weeks of bad weather. We ended up closing early a few times and had to cancel scheduled programs. We also had the Traveling Lantern program and it was well attended. We are hosting 3 successful book clubs for children with 3 different reading levels, including early readers. Each month the participants get a book to keep. This has been successful. This spring the library will host a huge Hobbit event. Staff is busy planning for that. There is an adult crafting program tomorrow where patrons make a necklace with a silver pendant, and will imprint a leaf on it. There has been tons of interest on social media.

New business: The website and logo for the Library District are being redesigned. When the Board did strategic planning, Jeff talked about getting extra staff help in the form of hiring an additional Page (part-time, minimum wage, no benefits). He's adding the position into the 23/24 budget.

At PLA last spring, there was a company, the Burgeon Group, that built customized children's interactive educational play equipment. Jeff talked about the equipment possibilities with Valerie. If the Library District purchased three different custom-made interactive play exhibits, the pieces could be moved around the county in 4-month increments between Dufur, Maupin, and The Dalles libraries to keep the equipment fresh at each location. The Library District would pay for the equipment with Library District funds. Board members endorsed the idea.

There was a discussion regarding a story walk that could be shared among the libraries. The Board is interested in pursuing this.

Deward (George) Hext is resigning from the Library Board, as he is moving out of the area.

Old business: Regarding the replacement of the HVAC system, The Dalles Library is still in contention for a state grant to help with this. The library has been accepted into the second phase of possible funding. However, the state wants two more HVAC quotes. The Board would still like to meet with the city manager about the HVAC, as well as other repairs to the building.

Jeff had budgeted for replacing the carpet and painting the outside of the building for a couple years now. With the accumulated unused funds being available the Board thought it was a good idea to move forward on these projects. The library will need to be closed for a few days for the carpet project.

There was a discussion about closing the The Dalles Library on Saturdays when there is a holiday on the following Monday. Typically, the library is slow on those Saturdays. The Saturday closings would allow the whole staff to share the same holidays. With President's Day coming up next month, the Board agreed that the library should be closed on the prior Saturday, as well as the actual holiday, as long as it is well publicized in advance. This will prevent potential staffing shortages and create goodwill with staff.

Next meeting will be at The Dalles Library on Tuesday, February 21st at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

WASCO COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corliss Marsh, Chairman

Mary Beechler, Vice Chairman

Deward Hext, Board Member

Tina Coleman, Board Member

Vicki Thomas, Board Member