

## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 17, 2024

- Present: Spider (S.R.), Katie Walker (Malin), Del Fox (Merrill), Scott Siracusa (KF), Joe Spendolini (S.S.), Tim Sexton (Chiloquin), Jennifer Cole (Keno), Rigoberto Cisneros (KF), Nathalie Johnston (Director), Cindy Williams (Recorder),
- Call to order: 12:01 p.m.
- Minutes: Quarterly minutes, M/S/Approved. Special Committee minutes, M/S/Approved.
- Membership: Rigoberto (Rigo) introduced himself. He owns Girasol Mexican Restaurant on Main Street. He was born and raised in the basin.
- Branches: Chris sent her report: The greenhouse is open in Bonanza and kids are learning how to plant seeds. The Library Foundation funded the project.
- Nathalie: Bly now has twenty-five children attending the Gearhart school. Staff provided a Finch robot program for the kids. The Finch robots are used to teach coding to young students. We are working on a policy to allow teachers and homeschooling group to check out the kits. Staff from five branches have been trained on the Finch robots. Bly is the only branch not open on Saturdays.
- Tim reported that Chiloquin's Friends group has about 50 members who have been busy with fundraising. They also assist with Storytimes on Wednesdays.
- Jennifer reported that Keno is still quiet. They are busiest when the post office is open. The calendar is full of activities. She will meet with Journey to discuss how to increase school attendance and the safety issues related to the road between the school and the library.
- Scott asked if the new landscaping has decreased loitering on Klamath Avenue. Yes, and Nathalie is asking for a quote for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street landscaping. We still have quite a few people loitering on the sidewalk but there is no city code that forbids people from congregating on public sidewalk as long as they don't bother the public or block the entryway and stairs. Safety is the biggest issue and the Library should be a welcoming environment. Scott would like to have the City Police Chief and the new Sherriff speak with the committee about safety issues. Jennifer added that she would like to know which local non-profits can also help the homeless population.
- Del reported that there are no issues in Merrill.
- Katie reported that Christa is busy prepping the garden. The attendance is good for both programs and book clubs.
- Joe will report on the newspaper archive project in New Business.
- Spider reported no issues in Sprague River. Nathalie added that there were plumbing issues and the septic tank had to be pumped.

Director: Nathalie reported that the Library will be closed on May 17<sup>th</sup> for a staff in-service. On the schedule: Active Shooter training, A.I. training, and how A.I. can help staff and patrons. The circulation is increasing, and we are very busy. The budget hearing is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. at the Government Center. Nathalie will send members an invite. Commissioner DeGroot asked Nathalie if the Library would be interested in purchasing the empty lot next door. The cost is \$80,000 and would be purchased with funds from the Library reserve. It is about 4,000 square feet and would be used as an outdoor library program space. It would be fenced and allow for greater safety for children and adults attending programming outside. We are currently blocking off the street and several times last year cars drove through the barricade. The county and Library Foundation would assist with funding the project. Nathalie is meeting with a designer at the end of May. Dell thinks that the lot should stay on the tax rolls so as not to be a burden to taxpayers. Nathalie mentioned that because the lot is underdeveloped the owner only pays \$218 in tax per year. The lot has been empty for 15 years. Scott asked if State funds were available for capital projects. Nathalie clarified that the Library does not receive State funds except for Summer Reading Program. Any State Funds are allocated via grant. Last year the Friends of the Library received a \$50,000 grant for the Finch robots. Nathalie is the grant writer for the Library and the Assistant Director Amanda Edwards is being trained to assist. The County also have a grant manager that can assist.

Old Business: The minutes for the By-laws were approved. Nathalie discussed the budget, no major changes compared with last year.

New Business: The members would like Nathalie to send monthly reports and the agenda and minutes as soon as possible. They would like Nathalie to also send calendar invites for the meetings for the year to members.

Strategic Planning: Nathalie would like to start work on the Strategic Plan this summer. It has not been updated in fifteen years. Scott and Nathalie will be meeting to select dates for the members to review. Nathalie will send the draft of a timeline to members.

Joe will send Nathalie the links for the Herald & News archives to add to our website. He has researched and there will be no cost for the current archives. The University of Oregon provides free online access for their digital collections.

There is a vacancy on the Law Library Advisory Board since Renee resigned. Members should apply online if interested. They meet three times a year and a zoom option is available.

Adjourned: 12:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, In person and via Zoom.