

Minutes of the Board of Trustees
William F. Laman Public Library
Regular Meeting - Via Zoom
Monday, December 20, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

The Board met via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. Ms. McLean called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Ms. Crystal Gates, Executive Director; Ms. Valerie McLean, President; Mr. Charley Baxter; Ms. Esther Crawford; Ms. Kim Drake; and Mr. Sonny Rhodes. Ms. Joyce Brewer and Ms. Katie Phippin were absent. Also present: Ms. Robin Campbell, Ms. Stacy Purdy, Ms. Shannan Hicks, and Mr. Richard Theilig. Mr. Baxter apologized for missing the last meeting.

Ms. Gates reviewed the Financial Report. Collections of millage are up; we will receive a little over \$100,000.00 of CARES reimbursement funds for ebook and PPE expenditures; and ARPA funds have been postponed until 2022. Motion Ms. Crawford, second Mr. Rhodes to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates presented the Statistical Report. Ms. Drake noted the Tumblebook usage varies and asked for clarification regarding the methods for counting database usage. Motion Mr. Rhodes, second Ms. Drake to approve the Statistical Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates reviewed the Director's Report, including her PTO and recent meeting schedule. The original funds requested through ARPA were recently moved to the CARES steering committee, which amended the allowable project requests and also allows for reimbursement of expenses for ebooks purchased through Overdrive and PPE. AAAL plans to request funding to purchase test kits that would be distributed via public libraries to the community.

Motion Mr. Baxter, second Mr. Rhodes to elect the current officers for 2022, those being Ms. McLean as President and Ms. Crawford as Vice-President. Ms. Gates serves as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Drake discussed a need to open the Main Branch on Saturdays and proposed having Main Branch open Tuesday through Saturday while Argenta Branch remains open Monday through Friday. She discussed research she conducted showing most libraries are open on Saturdays. Mr. Baxter shared his reluctance to open additional hours at the current time due to the ongoing pandemic and uncertainty regarding the latest Covid-19 variant. Ms. McLean noted that any change would most likely require a budget amendment even if no additional staffing are necessary and asked Ms. Gates to research the cost of opening on Saturdays and present information at the next meeting.

Ms. Gates reviewed proposed amendments to the 2021 and 2022 Budgets primarily due to the changing of the expected revenue from CARES and ARPA. Motion Mr. Rhodes, second Ms. Crawford to approve the Amended 2021 and 2022 Budgets. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 17, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Under board member comments, Mr. Baxter reviewed correspondence received from Garden Memorial Methodist Church, which has placed a little lending library on their property with plans to maintain it themselves. Mr. Baxter will forward a copy of the letter to Ms. Gates and Mr. Theilig. Mr. Theilig noted that the January meeting falls on a holiday. The Board unanimously agreed to move the next regular meeting to January 24, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Ms. Drake noted how wonderful the new Laman Plaza Playground is and the great opportunities it provides for families. Ms. Crawford noted the excellent Staff Awards Banquet and her appreciation that the event highlighted all staff contributions and showed that staff appreciate each other and honor each other's contributions.

With no further business to discuss, motion Mr. Rhodes, second Mr. Baxter to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Crystal Gates, Secretary