

Minutes of the Board of Trustees  
William F. Laman Public Library  
Via Zoom  
May 10, 2021 @ 10:30 AM

The Board met via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. Ms. McLean called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Those present were Ms. Crystal Gates, Executive Director; Ms. Valerie McLean, President; Ms. Joyce Brewer; Ms. Esther Crawford; Ms. Kim Drake; Ms. Vicki Matthews; and Mr. Sonny Rhodes. Mr. Baxter was absent. Also present: Ms. Stacy Purdy, Ms. Shannan Hicks, Ms. Robin Campbell, and Mr. Richard Theilig. Motion Ms. Crawford, second Ms. Drake to approve the absence of Mr. Baxter. Motion carried unanimously. There were no public comments.

Motion Ms. Crawford, second Mr. Rhodes to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Mr. Rhodes, second Ms. Drake to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Ms. Drake, second Ms. Brewer to approve the Statistical Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gates reviewed the Director's report, including her PTO balance and recent meetings. Ms. Gates has been appointed to the ALA Membership Committee for 2021-2023. Staff attended the professional development day on May 7, 2021. Management all agree this was the best staff training day in recent memory. New hires include Derek Cash, Tammie Evans, Megan Hines, Cameron Sharp, and Katie Visco.

All present reviewed present salaries and recent financials including changes to salaries over the last several years, year-to-date revenue comparing the last three years, and costs of three percent and five percent cost-of-living increases for library staff. Ms. Gates also discussed recent challenges in hiring due to salary limits and the increased cost of goods and housing affecting much of the library's staff. Ms. Gates will provide additional figures to the Board, including providing costs for a two percent increase, history of increases for the last several years, percentage of budget allocated to personnel costs, and research trends for budget percentages allocated to personnel costs for other libraries.

Ms. Gates has a meeting scheduled with Mayor Hartwick to discuss changing the direction of parking stripes for Argenta Branch to better flow with traffic moving south to north on Poplar Street. In considering the Argenta Downtown Council's proposal to move Argenta Branch's parking to street-side parking, Ms. Matthews advised that any business with onsite parking has additional value. She noted that the proposed plan is not to scale and has difficulty believing the proposed changes would add additional parking for the library. She also shared that the original plans when revitalizing the building for the library's use included using the parking and porch areas for event space. Any move to street-side parking would move handicap accessible parking further away from the entrance ramp. She believes that the current proposed plan does not provide value to the library. Ms. McLean stated that it would be nice for the library to have

software for curbside features when patrons pull up to the library that includes something similar to the “I’m here” function at area restaurants. Ms. Matthews proposed that Ms. Gates inform the City and Argenta Downtown Council that while the library board appreciates the consideration of parking at Argenta Branch, the board prefers to keep the library’s onsite parking. Ms. McLean requested blueprints or a scaled drawing of the area. After further discussion, motion Ms. Matthews, second Ms. Drake to instruct Ms. Gates to inform the City and the Argenta Downtown Council that the Library Board appreciates their consideration of parking at the Argenta Branch and the library will keep Argenta Branch’s onsite parking. Mr. Rhodes feels it is premature to take the step since Ms. Gates has a meeting planned with Mayor Hartwick who may have thoughts on the matter. A roll call vote was called: Aye – Brewer, Crawford, Drake, Matthews, McLean; No – none; Abstain – Rhodes. Motion carried. Ms. Gates will meet with the Mayor and request the City’s assistance in re-striping the Argenta Branch parking lot to allow for parking direction matching the one-way direction of Poplar Street, which should make accessing the parking lot easier for patrons. She will also speak with him about the curb and book drop installation. Ms. Matthews hopes that this will show that the Board is moving forward positively for the library and is ready to be involved.

Kim noted that the library has been in the paper lately and is doing a great job. Ms. McLean requested the link for media documents.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

Under board member comments, Ms. Matthews noted that the City has a Resolution allocating funding to the Argenta Downtown Council to benefit the Argenta area. Ms. Drake asked about any recent legislation affecting the library. Ms. Gates shared that a fiscal study is being conducted regarding making electronic resources sales tax exempt for libraries.

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

Crystal Gates, Secretary