

Call to Order

Hadi Dudley, Library Director, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Library Advisory Board Members

Michelle Evans, Michele Stamps Pritchett, Cynthia Cochran, Megan Bolinder, Kimberly Seay, Nathan Pollet, Teresa Stafford, Judy Marquess, Octavio Sanchez, Hadi Dudley, Vira Kousol

Guests: Jamey Boston and Rita Shaojing Wu

Approval of June 7, 2023, and September 6, 2023, Minutes

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from June 7, 2023, and September 6, 2023. Cynthia Cochran moved, and Megan Bolinder seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The June 7, 2023, and September 6, 2023, board minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Hadi Dudley gave the BPL report.
 - a. 150-Year Celebration
 - i. The following items were placed in the City's time capsule by Hadi Dudley, Anna Sharon, Vira Kousol and Samantha Sacry: City of Bentonville Proclamation presented at the groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate National Library Week; our commemorative 150-year library card designed by a local teenager; Bentonville Book Bingo, a reading activity featured this summer and a compilation of photographs of all staff members currently working at the library along with each person's name and favorite book title.
 - ii. October will feature an apple-themed book bag craft.
 - b. Featured Library Events
 - i. September events were positive (good attendance and feedback)
 1. Author Events in September: Suzanne Woods Fisher, Shelley Shepard Gray, and Roland Smith
 2. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Kickoff
 - ii. Several October events happenings for all ages
 1. OZ Kids Fat Tire Crit & Fall Fest: Saturday, October 21 at 2 PM – 5 PM
 2. Volunteer opportunities still exist for our partners at Ozark Foundation
 - c. Library FY2024 Budget Presentation to City Council: Friday, October 13
2. Expansion Update
 - a. Underground waterline relocation was completed on September 25, 2023
 - b. The south portion of the foundation slab was poured on September 28, 2023
 - c. The north portion of the foundation slab will be poured when the remaining piers are drilled and final footings are complete.
 - d. Parking lot modifications begin the week of October 16; reminder of the project scope:
 - i. Portions of lots will be temporarily closed during demolition, asphalt, and restripe
 - ii. Addition of 12 new parking spots
 - iii. Addition of a convenient 15-minute spot for hold pickup
 - iv. Improvements to the Downtown Trail are planned
 - v. Relocation of the Main Street rainwater garden

- e. Installation of steel is scheduled for October.
 - i. The topping-out ceremony will be announced later in the fall.
 - f. Still on target for opening summer of 2024, with remodel work continuing a couple of months after the addition opens.
 - g. MSR Design will be onsite October 12-13 to kick off project furniture, fixtures & equipment (FFE) phase.
 - i. Meeting with library staff to discuss shelving and furnishings (public seating, makerspace, service desks, and staff workstations).
3. Judy Marquess provided the Friends of the Library Report
- a. Fall Book Sale – October 5-7
 - i. Thursday, October 5th Member Preview Sale 5 PM – 7:30 PM Memberships available at the door
 - ii. Friday, October 6: Open to the public 9 AM – 4:30 PM
 - iii. Saturday, October 7: Open to the public 9 AM – 4:30 PM
 - b. National Friends of the Library Week
 - i. Celebration Wednesday, October 18, at 10 AM, at BPL in the Sunroom
 - ii. Announcement of goals for the year
 - iii. Proclamation by Mayor Stephanie Orman
 - iv. Meaningful and fun awards
 - v. Prizes
 - vi. Light refreshments
 - c. Financials for August and September include:
 - i. Book Store Sales
 - ii. Amazon Sales
 - iii. Memberships
 - iv. Miscellaneous
 - d. Total Revenue for August and September - \$2,579.10
 - e. Expenses for August and September - \$8,919.31
 - i. Children's Book Sale profit sharing with book dealers, staff scholarships, juvenile book club sets, and FOL supplies.
4. Teresa Stafford provided the Library Foundation Report
- a. 2023 totals
 - i. Total donations this year-to-date = 209
 - ii. Total dollar (cash in) this year-to-date = \$2,174,675
 - b. Building Fund to date:
 - i. Total donation amount committed = \$11,419,515
 - 1. Becky & Bob Alexander named the Children's Craft Room
 - ii. Add the \$4.5 million bond money, we are at \$15,919,515.
 - 1. 95% to goal of \$16,750,000
 - iii. Funding gap = \$830,485
 - c. Campaign Phase II
 - i. Launched!
 - 1. Via *Democrat Gazette* article 9/17 or 9/24
 - a. Introduce new campaign champion (Sam's Club leadership)
 - b. Fundraising accomplishments to date
 - c. The remaining needed to close the gap.
 - d. Public/Private Partnership

- ii. Additional article – anticipated around October 14th.
 - a. Focus on how expansion benefits the community.
 - b. 3 areas – youth services, adult & teens, businesses & community-based organizations
 - iii. Prospective donor meetings are ongoing.
 - 1. Focus on how expansion benefits the community.
 - 2. 3 areas – youth services, adult & teens, businesses & community-based organizations
 - 3. Meetings ongoing with multiple prospective individual and corporate donors
- d. End-of-year appeal – focus on Phase II to close the gap.
 - i. Planned for the 2nd week of November.
 - 1. Specific funding request for children’s picture book bins and community veranda furniture (or another adult library need)
- e. Reminder: Blake Street event – for members who can invite their own guests.
 - i. Thursday, October 5, 5:30 PM – 7 PM
 - 1. Panel with conversational Q & A
 - a. Five panelists representing individual donors, corporate donors to the campaign, Walmart Foundation, and Ozark Outdoor Foundation
 - b. To discuss why they invested in the expansion – value added to the community and their respective organizations.
 - f. The next BLF board meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2023.
- 5. Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limited Public Forum)
 - a. Guest Rita Shaojing Wu provided comments to the Library Advisory Board.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 1 p.m.

Adjournment

The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 1:52 p.m.