

Call to Order

Hadi Dudley, Library Director, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Attendees: Betsy Batey, Megan Bolinder, Nathan Pollet, Kimberly Seay, Judy Marquess, Teresa Stafford, Octavio Sanchez, Hadi Dudley and Vira Kousol.

Location: The group met via Zoom videoconferencing.

Approval of July 7, 2021 Minutes

The group reviewed the minutes from the July 7, 2021 meeting. Megan Bolinder moved, Nathan Pollet seconded, to approve the minutes as presented. The July 7, 2021 board minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Hadi gave the Library updates:
 - a. Personnel
 - i. Sue Ann Pekel's retirement drop-in reception is scheduled for September 16 at 4PM (tentative due to COVID)
 1. Invitation with a gift option is being shared
 - ii. Successor hired: Christina Clark begins work September 7 to allow for cross-over training time with Sue.
 - b. Summer wrap-up (August numbers):
 - i. Total Circulations: 111,099 (physical materials)
 1. 52%+ over last year
 2. -25% compared to 2019
 - ii. Programs for outdoor / virtual options
 1. Attendance: 2,789
 2. Number offered: 95
 - iii. Summer Reading Club participation
 1. 1,434 participants; 55% increase over last year
 2. 540,976 hours; 47% increase over last year
 - c. Reconsideration of Library Material: BPL's formal process was handled according to its collection development policy:
 - i. The book: *The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish* / Lil Miss Hot Mess, illustrated by Olga de Dios
 - ii. Official reconsideration initiated by Gail Leslie Pianalto's form submission on July 13, 2021.
 - iii. Internal Librarian Review Committee met after reviewing book and professional materials related to the title on 7/22/2021.
 - iv. Committee recommendation and the library director's decision was to reclassify and relocate the book to the adult circulating collection.
 - v. The patron was notified of the decision in writing.
 - d. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding via Arkansas State Library update:

- i. Librarian review and preparation of potential projects is complete with a new option that expands access to BPL and responds to COVID-19 conditions for self-service material pickup: remoteLockers by Bibliotheca are being purchased.
 - ii. Grant acceptance of \$42,405 and purchase of capital equipment requires City Council approval of a budget adjustment and a bid waiver.
 - e. City Council item forthcoming related to Train Station property:
 - i. The Bentonville Library Foundation is conveying the property to the City of Bentonville for \$10.
 - ii. The City of Bentonville will lease the space to the Bentonville History Museum
 - iii. BLF's Board decision was unanimous as the group had been considering best use of the asset that would benefit the library and community. A lot of thought went into this transaction to honor the building's historical value.
 - f. City Council budget adjustment pending to convert 2.5 part-time clerk vacant positions into 1 full-time specialist position for the adult services team. This request will address high turn-over and staff retention; it is a planned position for 2023.
- 2. Library Expansion Update
 - a. Status of procuring design and preconstruction services: MSR Design and Flintco were selected by committee with agreements going to City Council for approval.
 - b. Ad hoc steering committee is being formed to support the expansion project. Interested LAB members should reach out to Hadi for committee service.
 - c. LAB stakeholder meeting with the design firm is pending and tentatively schedule for the October board meeting.
- 3. Judy Marquess shared the Friends of the Library Report:
 - a. Back-to-School Tent Sale hosted in BPL's Backyard
 - i. Total Sales \$17,594.12 (before expenses)
 - b. October Popup Sale – October 16, 10am – 4pm
 - i. Adults' Fiction and Non-Fiction
 - ii. Children's
 - 1. Total revenue for July was \$2,839.11, which included bookstore sales, Amazon sales, memberships, and miscellaneous sales.
 - 2. Expenses for July \$2,119.62
 - c. Financial for August (estimate)
 - i. Total revenue for August \$11,785.03
 - ii. Expenses for August \$2,098.64
 - d. YTD revenue \$31,671.22
 - e. YTD expenses \$20,589.37
- 4. Teresa Stafford provided the Library Foundation Report:
 - a. 2021 totals YTD:
 - i. 176 donations
 - ii. Dollars = \$93,094.59
 - 1. August donations = \$22,943.34
 - 2. 84% to annual goal
 - b. Major gift support toward building fund/campaign
 - i. Meetings and solicitations are ongoing
 - ii. Mid six-figure gift currently in negotiation
 - c. October 23rd event:
 - i. OZ Kids Fat Tire Criterium and Fall Fest
 - ii. Save-the-date 3 – 6 PM

- iii. Foundation seeks event sponsors:
 - 1. 9 possible race groups – registration will determine number of groups
 - 2. Stage sponsor, start/finish sponsor
- iv. Four Library Service Awards will be presented
- v. Event will feature a public phase announcement of capital campaign (building expansion).
- d. End-of-year appeal plans:
 - i. Multi-media launch 2nd week of November
 - 1. Mail
 - 2. SM
 - 3. E-blast with video
 - 4. Library e-Newsletter
 - 5. Mail solicitation to all Friends of BPL membership
 - e. Visits with key stakeholders and qualified prospects are ongoing.
 - f. The next BLF board meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021.

Next Meeting

October 6, 2021 at 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

October's LAB meeting is tentatively planned as a stakeholder session with MSR Design.

Adjournment

Hadi adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.