

LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

AUGUST 26, 2020

REMOTE ZOOM MEETING

Board Present: Annie Brooks; Helen Cox, Vice-President; Cristina Cray; Andre Jordan; Arden Lang, President; Mary Mucciante , Tiffany Roe.

Board Absent: Larry Harvell; Marty Ryan, Secretary.

Staff Present: Jeff Blazis, Fiscal Officer; Rochelle Hartman, Director.

Public Present: None.

President Lang called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

MINUTES: Ms. Cox made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2020, meeting. Ms. Cray seconded the motion and the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: May and June 2020 fiscal reports were reviewed. Revenue is down due to the pandemic.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Website Update – The new library website launched on August 18, 2020. Customer response has been positive.

COVID-19 Update – The library is still operating with limited hours and services. The demand for curbside pickup has slowed, as customers seem to prefer to browse the limited selection of new and popular items and visit with staff. The book stacks remain closed.

The pandemic has negatively impacted the city budget, so Mayor Langfelder has asked city departments to provide a 10% budget reduction scenario. At this time, it is unclear if the full reduction will be required. More info may be revealed at the next meeting of the City Council.

Mr. Jordan arrived at 4:50 p.m.

Vacancies – Joel Gragg has accepted the Computer Network Specialist position. Several vacancies remain – two Librarian I positions, Library Assistant II, Youth Services Manager, Community Engagement Manager, two Security Guards and a part-time shelver. In light of the pandemic's negative effect on the budget, it is unknown if all positions will be filled.

Yard Signs -- Lincoln Library yard signs can be picked up at the Circulation Desk or requested with curbside service. Two choices are available: "I Love My Library" or "A Super Reader Lives Here."

Donation – Director Hartman has received notification of an unrestricted, million-dollar bequest from former Springfield residents, Frank and Marion Wagner. The paperwork -- made out to Lincoln Library -- is currently with the Office of Corporation Counsel. Director Hartman is awaiting guidance from city officials. It is unknown if the funds will land inside or outside the budget. Ideas for use include replacing the aging Extension Services van and purchasing a bookmobile for community outreach.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: President Lang thanked Director Hartman and library staff for their hard work during this difficult time.

FRIEND’S REPORT: Ms. Cray reported that the Friends’ Board is scheduled to meet remotely on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. They are expected to discuss halting the acceptance of book donations as they have run out of storage space. The possibility of holding a children’s book sale on the library plaza will also be on the agenda.

LINCOLN LIBRARY FOUNDATION: Ms. Cox reported the Foundation Board met in July and discussed the Wagner bequest.

BIG READ: The National Endowment of the Arts has awarded the Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) with a \$15,000 Big Read grant. The title chosen for the community-wide reading program is *Lab Girl*. Due to the uncertainties of the pandemic, the kickoff has been pushed back to March 2021 and mostly virtual events are being planned. Grant partners include Lincoln Library, SIU Medical School, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, the African American History Museum and surrounding area libraries. Grant funds will be used to purchase copies of the book for community distribution. Lincoln Library has hard copies and ebooks available for borrowing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sunday Hours – For reasons including low customer use and current staffing and budget challenges, Director Hartman asked the Board to vote to suspend Sunday hours. Board members agreed and Ms. Cox made a motion to suspend Sunday hours until April 2021. Ms. Mucciante seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Board will reconsider offering Sunday hours next spring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC FORUM: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Jordan and a second by Ms. Mucciante.

Submitted by Kim Hergett