

GPL Board 13 May 2025

Called to order 1700 by Marilyn

Motion to approve agenda: Melissa/Paula

- Passes unanimously

Community Comments

- Hazel (Junior Librarian): "I like it"

Motion to approve minutes: John/Paula

- Passes unanimously

Financial Report

- We won a Dollar General summer literacy grant
 - o \$119 check was for 20 copies of a book for the summer reading program—kids get to keep it when finished
- Received a "sizeable donation" (\$3,191.42 in bank statement)
- New Budget Report shows % of FY budget spent so far for each category
 - o Capital Outlay shows \$15,000 but we didn't actually budget anything—this came from the ALA grant
 - o Library Support Payments is a duplicate of other categories and should be ignored
- Motion to approve: Zack/Melissa
 - o Passes unanimously

Bills

- Ingram: books
- Playaway: books (reimbursed by Friends from a memorial donation)
- Books by the Bushes: Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant
- Windstream: Internet
- Great America: computer leases
- Motion to approve: Paula/John
 - o Passes unanimously

Committee Reports

- None

Librarian's Report

- Counts
 - Overall door count is up from April 2024
 - Toddler Time and weekly after-school program are still well-attended
- Summer reading program schedule will be out next week
 - Danica working with school librarian—she will be at the school Thursday & Friday to speak about the program
 - Theme is “Level Up at Your Library”
 - Starting kids’ book club, related but not technically part of the program
 - Didn’t book a performer this year b/c attendance didn’t justify the cost in the past
 - Every kid who registers for the program gets a book to keep b/c of DGLF funding
- Possible presenters
 - Good Neighbor Iowa—discussing risks b/c of common lawn pesticides
 - Danica is a bit concerned about it being poorly received if it comes off as anti-ag
 - Linda McCann—Iowa historian, presented here before
 - Danica working on getting her on the calendar again in July
 - Last presentation had ~20 people attend
 - \$100 cost for her newest presentation Rosie the Riveters in Iowa (we have the associated book)
 - Iowa Navigator
 - Health care enrollment
 - Free
 - Brad Wilkening
 - Lessons of the Holocaust
 - Other librarians have spoken well of this event
- Grants
 - Received \$2,000 for digital resources from EF and Sylvia Schildberg Foundation
 - Paid for Hoopla renewal and digitization equipment for genealogy research area
 - Received \$2,500 from Dollar General Literacy Foundation for summer reading program
- Board vacancies
 - John, Paula, Julie terms expiring at end of June
 - Danica thinks Julie said she wanted to renew
 - Paula and John plan to leave the board
 - Two potential candidates, not entirely sure if they’re actually interested
- Newspaper

- Danica has started writing a monthly piece in the Free Press on library topics and donations
- Card applications
 - Checkout software updated, now supports texts to be sent about overdue items
 - Danica added an option for applicants to set contact preferences
- First aid training
 - Stop the Bleed kit will be in City Hall soon
 - Danica & Sandy now certified
- Ingram
 - Seeing significant delays (~2 months) in receiving new releases
 - Ingram says warehouses are behind, working 7-day weeks to catch up
 - Recommended not having them put covers on the books, Danica is considering whether to make this change
- Email conversion
 - Working well
 - Haven't yet received the invoice
- Memorial wall
 - Several donors who are eligible to be added
 - Company that originally engraved it is not responding
 - Danica talking to Small Town Printing to find other options
- Friends update (Marilyn)
 - Made decisions about perks for members (which bags, color, etc.)
 - Scheduling a fundraising potluck in August

Unfinished Business

- FY26 budget—City Council is making adjustments this evening, not expected to impact us
- Danica seeking options for a new IT provider, reviews from other libraries have been mixed so far
- Bridgewater contract—no update, Fontanelle has not received a check
- Rearranging computers
 - Two computers moved to Junior room, no complaints
 - Working on planning for overflow—haven't run into this much yet
 - Kids so far tend to use a tablet when kids room computers are full instead of using ones in the main room
 - Need to decide what to do with the old magazine rack
 - Is a memorial piece
 - Danica thinks it isn't needed anymore

- We have enough space on the other metal magazine racks

New Business

- Policy Review – Meeting Room
 - Motion to approve: John/Paula
 - Passes unanimously
- Wage increase
 - When we applied for the budget we requested 3%
 - Matches what other City employees received
 - Board will consider this in June once we have the approved budget
- FY25 closures
 - Proposed dates match the City except for Saturdays b/c library is open and most city agencies are not
 - Proposes closing Saturday before Easter instead of Good Friday
 - Consideration of closing Good Friday also
 - 38 total patrons last year
 - Board suggests closing at 1400, Danica agrees
 - Motion to approve as modified: John/Melissa
 - Passes unanimously
- 5-year plan
 - Expires this year
 - State Library requires that we have a current one
 - District Consultant Misty Gray recommends we have a focus group or directly call 25 community members selected based on role criteria
 - Misty's assistance is part of her role, no extra cost to us
 - Board indicates approval of contacting Misty for help
- Hoopla
 - Have had it for 7-8 months
 - Monthly spending is leveling out ~\$180
 - Danica emailed a rep to get ideas on controlling spending
 - Suggested price caps on individual items by format, monthly budget caps
 - Board deferred decision after some discussion of the impacts of caps

Motion to adjourn: John/Paula