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
	+ $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
	+ Capital Outlay shows $15,000 but we didn’t actually budget anything—this came from the ALA grant
	+ Library Support Payments is a duplicate of other categories and should be ignored
* Motion to approve: Zack/Melissa
	+ 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
	+ 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