

Carthage Public Library

March 12, 2018

President John Dittmer called the meeting to order at 4:35. Also present were Angie Perry, Donna Tracy, JR Parn, Andy Bastert, Michelle Bavery, and Director Amy Gee. David Zanolla was absent.

JR motioned to accept the minutes from the February 12th meeting. Donna seconded, approved.

Reports

Received an Amazon Smile contribution of \$45.

Treasurer's report was reviewed for January and February as presented by Andy. We already have Per Capita grant, but haven't received as much in replacement taxes as last year. We've also transferred more money so we've spent more this year. In donations and memorials, we had a couple substantial memorials. The Linda Holtsclaw Memorial was \$500 for the Building Fund and \$500 for books and Bud Scheuermann Memorial was \$1000 for the Building Fund. Our savings at the end of February was \$126,302.46.

Reviewed the budget spreadsheet, check lists, and bank reports. Amy also mentioned some of the main points of the Librarian's Report. The boiler passed its state inspection, but it is 48 years old so on borrowed time. A new one would cost \$10,000-\$15,000. The library is also having some computer issues which will be addressed with Per Capita funds.

Staffing has been an issue due to illness. Also, Jeanne Schell will be retiring at the end of June so a position will be opening as circulation clerk.

Communications

A to Z Travel subscription – 13 users over a period of about 1 ½ years, with no usage since August 2017. A discussion was held as to whether it was wise to keep a paid subscription to something that many people look to free resources such as Pinterest for similar information. Board members were asked to look at the A to Z World Food database.

John Adkins passed away and his wife is naming the library as beneficiary of memorials.

Friends report

On March 22 Friends of the Library will be hosting the Spelling Bee at the Middle School. Their annual meeting will be held May 24 with Elaine Printy speaking about the book she's written.

The Foundation needs to meet this Spring. Amy plans to speak with them about setting up a Facebook page and a page on the library's website and signing up for PayPal so on-line donations can be accepted for the building fund.

Nothing has been done about scheduling a Focus group meeting or reforming the group.

Unfinished Business

Reviewed the report submitted by Dr. Schlipf and Mark Misselhorn. The Board agrees with Dr. Schlipf's conclusions and that the funding piece is a real challenge. We know what needs to be done and are seeking feedback from the public. We are forward looking but have no timeline. Donna moved that we accept the March 5, 2018 report and agree with the conclusions of the Dr Schlipf and Mark Misslehorn as presented in the summary. Andy seconded.

We will also inform the public of this decision. Andy suggested posting their summary statement and conclusion on our website, with a link to the entire memorandum. Also, Amy is to work with the Hancock County Journal Pilot to compose an article for the newspaper to inform the public about the situation, the steps that have been taken, and Dr. Schlipf's conclusions.

The State Library is required by law to accept applications each year for the Public Library Construction Act Grant, even though they are not anticipating that it will be funded. We have been resubmitting our original 2012 application for remodeling the upstairs and adding a stair tower. Amy called the State Library and learned that we are not considered a "carry over" project, so we are not retaining our place near the beginning of the line, but if the grant was ever funded our application would be considered the same as if we had not applied in 2012. Therefore, we can completely change our project and apply for funds to construct a new building. Debated the wisdom of spending time and money on preparing an application for a grant that would probably not be funded, but we would hate to be left out if something changed and there were funds. Decided that Amy should go ahead and prepare the application, and authorized her to ask Mark Misselhorn to complete the budget page, which breaks down the costs into several categories. The application is due April 15.

Amy submitted the e-rate Form 471. For the Category 2 equipment, she used the proposal submitted by J&S Electronics, which included a 3 year subscription for the Sonic Wall. The total proposal was \$2699, so our 30% would be \$809.70. We have been paying \$230 per year for our current sonic wall subscription. This project will only happen if and when we receive e-rate approval and funding.

New Business

Donna made a motion that the library be closed at 6:00 pm on March 22nd for the Spelling Bee. JR seconded. Motion carried.

Received check for \$294.82 from an LCD Antitrust Settlement that we applied for in Sept. 2016. Haven't heard anything about the RAM Antitrust Settlement that we applied for at the same time.

Back to Books Grant – we asked for STEAM books in the amount of \$3,000. Donna suggested changing it to \$1,500 for each of the three grade levels so total grant would be \$4,500. Angie was very complementary of the writing of the grant.

Donna moved to adjourn at 5:42. JR seconded and motion carried. The next meeting will be April 9, 2018.

Michelle Bavry, Secretary