

Minutes
Ridgway Public Library at 300 Charles Street, Ridgway, CO
Board of Trustees regular meeting
December 8, 2023

Call to order: President Sally Trapp called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm

Present: Amy Baer, library director, Julie Duff, Alison Ethridge, Sandy Hennessy, Julie Herrmann, Jill Hepp, FOL president, via zoom, President Sally Trapp, Jenny Williams, honored guest Dickson Pratt and Daniel Schmidt, Plaindealer reporter

Approval of November minutes: Jenny Williams moved to accept the minutes and Julie Duff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: January 5th, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Friends of Library update: Jill Hepp spoke to the supportive mission of FOL and reported that they have raised \$10,000.00 so far and want to consolidate all donations and plan to give \$20,000.00 to the library in January for calendar year 2024. She wished to acknowledge the help and great effort of Barb Seeyle and Abbey Lacy. FOL is currently recruiting new board members. They wish to fill the role of Board Secretary. Jill asked that we share this message and encourage potential members to get in touch with her. Jill and Jenny Williams met to discuss options for expanding adult programming as well as streamlining the website.

Action and Discussion Items:

1. **Library of Things** – Alison Ethridge presented the possibility of Ridgway library providing the opportunity for patrons to borrow items that the community could use rather than purchase. A wide variety of items were mentioned in the presentation. Among possible benefits are sustainability and drawing in new patrons. She suggested we could start small with a small budget. We could reach out to determine community needs through adding this option to our community survey. Discussion ensued concerning feasibility, liability and building blocks. Members to continue discussion in our retreat's goal setting for the upcoming fiscal year.

2. **Presentation of Survey** – Jenny Williams introduced the 3 Minute Survey explaining the goals of the survey including using it to guide the board during the January retreat. One of the survey’s goals is to determine who we are not currently serving as well as the opinions of those we are and to gather information from a wide variety of people. Discussion included concern about suggesting options within the survey that we may not be ready to offer. Format and content of survey questions were also discussed. Survey was tabled to be revisited in January.
3. **Streamline Update:** Jenny has continued to work on this as has Betsy. We will publish the website once we feel it is complete. It is likely that we will be able to publish it before the end of the year. Streamline is flexible and items can be added or deleted. If any board member wants to look at it and offer questions or recommendations, they are invited to do so.
4. **Discuss meeting dates and retreat dates.** Sally would not like to meet in April. Budget is delayed and Julie asked that we meet on January 5, 2024. Jenny suggested we hold off on setting meeting months until new board members are on board. Board retreat date to be set in January also. Amy submitted the two letters of interest for board membership.
5. **Board Member Status and Trustee applications.** It was confirmed that Julie Herrmann will stay on and will fill her own term. We need to advertise for another board position opening as Sandy will be resigning. Two candidates will be interviewed in January.
6. **Holiday Gifts from the board.** Julie stated we have around \$5,000.00 which could be distributed. Amy will look at salaries and line item of how many hours were worked. Jenny suggested we give the above amount to Amy to distribute as she sees fit.

Treasurer’s Report. In 2023 we are to receive a property tax distribution for November from the county next week. We currently have \$57,000 more in income than we budgeted for. Expenses are currently under budget in most categories. The 2024 county assessment is due by January 3rd and the temporary tax credit form will be filled out once we have the county’s numbers. We will sign off on the budget at the January 5th meeting. There are no changes in the 2024 budget.

Director’s Report. Building and Maintenance Fall clean-up is complete. A new snow shoveling company is on board. Staff report on inventory will be finished in December. We have reached over 50,000 visitors for the year so far. AspenCat’s numbers are down on both lending and borrowing during the month of

November. Kanopy's numbers went up in November. The very successful book event that was held is reflected in meeting room numbers and also in the outreach category. Children's activities continue to be well attended. Outreach includes partnering with Food Pantry to provide socks and hats for to be distributed by Ouray Food Pantry. We hope to continue to collaborate with Ouray Food Pantry in future events. Jenny Williams helped Evie Carrick present a book launch party in the library on November 29th. Approximately 64 people attended. Amy has reached out to Ashley Perkins with the Ridgway Chamber to offer the library meeting room spaces. Currently the chamber uses the meeting room for work sessions.

Next Art Show going up and art show is Saturday, December 16th from 4-7.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45. Jenny moved to adjourn and Alison seconded. Motion carried.