

Cook Memorial Library Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 18, 2021
4:00 PM

Meeting Attendees: Ryan Zastrow, Barbara Minge, Carrie Bushman, Jennie Tucker, Marilyn Herbst, Nicole Welch, and Wyatt Christensen

Absent: Angela D'Antonio

Call to order

a) Meeting called to order at: 4:01 PM in the library community room.

Introductions

a) Carrie Bushman, Interim Library Director, introduced members of the commission to Wyatt Christensen, one of the library's new part-time employees. Wyatt then shared a little background about himself to everyone.

I. Approval of minutes from last meeting

a) Marilyn Herbst made a motion to approve the minutes as is, Barbara Minge seconded the motion.

II. Correspondence

a) None at present.

III. Public Comments

a) Jennie Tucker reported that she had nothing to report from the State Library of Oregon, as she had not attended the last meeting. The next meeting will be held in January and she hopes to make that one.

IV. Reports

a) Interim Director Bushman shared the current Library budget with the commission, and updated them as to current grant amounts. The library has used the funds received from the Oregon Rural Action mini-grant received in September to purchase food preservation tools and books for patrons to check-out and borrow from the library.

- b) The final book has been installed in the StoryWalk for the season. The weather makes it difficult to install any new books during the Winter months. Interim Director Bushman shared the happy news that the La Grande Parks and Rec Dept. received a grant to expand the Riverside Greenway and make it a full circle sometime next year. This might mean moving a couple of the StoryWalk posts in order to be included in the circle pathway.
- c) The library is seeing more reservations for the community room now that reservations are open and people are meeting in person again.

VII. New Business

- a) The library is in the process of becoming more of an official food pantry through the help from the Regional Food Bank. When the partnership begins, the library will pick food up monthly at the location in Island City. Library patrons will be asked to fill out a card asking about their financial situation. These will be anonymous and kept in a locked box for the Regional Food Bank employees to retrieve.
- b) Interim Director Bushman announced a project she's working on that involves a refreshment of the library and in particular, the Archives and Literacy Center rooms. This will not be an easy or quick task to accomplish, but an ongoing team effort. The Archives room project will include making the entry room into an office, where staff can have a computer set-up to catalog materials stored in the inner Archives room. Patrons will, in the future, be able to see exactly what the Archives room has available and will help with family histories and local research projects. The Literacy Center will be a bigger project and will take a few months to clean and rearrange so there is more space for students and tutors. After the Archives and Literacy rooms are clean, the walls will get new coats of paint to help brighten up the space. Marilyn Herbst made a motion to support the revitalization of the Literacy Center, or future "Learning Center", and Nicole Welch seconded.

VIII. Adjournment

- a) Meeting adjourned at: approximately 5:10 pm.
- b) Next meeting will be held in the community room on December 16, 2021 at 4:00 pm.