

Meeting Minutes of the Argyle Public Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Community Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bill Johnson at 10:09 a.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members in attendance: Monica Hodgson, Bill Johnson, Library Director Sarah Kyrie, Lynn Rossing. Also in attendance: Friends of the Argyle Public Library Board President Garry Rossing and Vice President Peg Rasch.

3. Adoption/Amendment of Agenda

Lynn Rossing moved to approve the agenda as written. Hodgson seconded. All in favor.

4. Approval of May 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Hodgson moved to approve the May 22, 2023 meeting minutes. Lynn Rossing seconded. All in favor.

5. Public Communications

None.

6. Friends Report

Rasch reported that the Friends held the annual book sale in June at the First National Bank. The bank allowed the books to stay for several additional days as a self-service sale. The leftover books were packed up by Friends members along with some teenage students, and were either given to a nursing home or sent to Thrift Books for possible reimbursement. The Friends are hosting tables at the Argyle Open Markets this summer that include coffee, a book sale, and a place for people to sit and visit, and these events appear to generate a very positive feeling for those attending the market. The Friends will hold an Ice Cream Social in conjunction with the Argyle Community Band Concert at the school on July 30th at 7:00 p.m.

7. Village Communication Report

No report.

8. Finances/Approval of Bills

- a. The bills were reviewed. Lynn Rossing moved to approve the bills. Hodgson seconded. All in favor.
- b. Community Foundation Grant. Director Kyrie reported on the enhancement of the entryway project. New signage and concrete have been installed. Because much of this work was donated, the project is under budget. It may be possible to save the funds for next year. Or, the Library could use it for hiring a local artist to create a piece of work for the space. Kyrie will explore options.

9. Library Updates

a. Programming. The Summer Reading Program will continue through July, and so far more than 20 people have attended each event, and one was attended by over 70 people. The last SRP event will be Community Singing with Sarah Burgess on July 20 at noon at the Bob Lafollette Museum. The summer reading incentive program continues through August, and the new punch card system is working well. Kyrie is finalizing plans for the August and September program schedule.

10. Subject Matter of Issues to Be Considered by the Board

a. New Library Discussion.

- Building Committee Co-chair Hodgson reported. Garry Rossing has volunteered to serve as the Co-chair. The Committee met in June at the Fire Station, with Fire Chief Dave Soper in attendance. The Committee made the decision to recommend to the Library Board that they follow through with hiring FEH Design to evaluate three sites: the current firehouse, an empty lot (location to be determined) and the former grocery store at 204 E. Milwaukee Street. This assessment would involve looking at what each site can offer, meetings with community members, and multiple drawings and would cost \$15,000.
- Garry Rossing reported that he has been in communication with the UW-Platteville about developing a design for a new library as one of their senior projects. Upon discussion it was decided that right now we are still in the site-selection process but this may be an option as we move into design mode next year.
- It was discussed how having a community building included in the new fire station project and making good use of the current fire station building are both helpful with securing funding.
- In conversations with the Director of the Benton Public Library Hodgson said she learned that including an historic aspect of the local community helped to secure funding. ● It was noted that there are a number of community members in favor of brand new construction, so if the firehouse is selected for the new library this could be considered an interim solution until another site is selected and a new larger library building is constructed.
- FEH provided some ballpark estimates of costs: \$155/square foot for renovation of the current firehouse (total cost \$625,000 for 3500 square feet), \$255/square foot for new construction on a vacant lot (total cost \$1.2 million for 4700 square feet), and \$145/square foot for renovation of the old grocery store (total cost for 6500 square feet - \$945,000). The costs for the latter two options do not include acquisition costs.
- Johnson moved to recommend to the Argyle Village Board that they support the FEH proposal for providing an analysis of the three sites for the library, contingent on the fact that the Village makes the Argyle-Adams Fire Department firehouse available for exclusive and indefinite use as a library. Hodgson seconded. All in favor.
- It was asked that if Delta 3 (the firm working on a home for the fire department building) does surveys of Argyle area residents to determine income levels to determine resources that might be available for financing the project, would their survey results also be available for use by the library project.
- The library is on the August 2 Village Board meeting agenda, and a representative of

FEH will be there.

- It is important to communicate significant steps in the process with those who have already made large donations and to keep them in the loop.
- b. Policies to Be Reviewed. General Library Policies have been reviewed by Hodgson, Lynn Rossing, and Director Kyrie. Johnson moved to approve the updated policies. Hodgson seconded. All in favor.
- c. The Evaluating the Director policy will be reviewed at a future date.

11. Closed Session

None.

13. Adjournment

Hodgson moved to adjourn. Lynn Rossing seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Next meeting: Monday, August 21, 2023, 6:00 p.m., at the firehouse unless the board is advised otherwise.