

**JUNE 23RD, 2021 – LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Ruth Morgan, Lisa Robins, Mary Heers, Millie Smith, Ron Campbell, Heidi Taylor, Cassidy Nemelka, Jessica Martin, Liz Gabbitas

**Public Attendees:** Katie Child, Bonnie Odd, Heidi Hyatt, Kinley Hyatt, Craig Smith, Tammy Trickler, Rick Shelton, Cory Wheeler, Maddie Martin, Gary Pence, Greta Anderson, Stacie Wright, Traci Hillyard, Janelle Simmons, Jeremy Martin,  McKenzie Martin, Cassidy Martin

**Director Report -** Heidi reviewed the director report, no further comments from the board. .

**Budget -** Rick went through the budget, as detailed on the handout. Mary thanked Rick and Heidi for going through the line items thoroughly. Ron asked Heidi if the library is confident they can operate under a lowered budget - she says yes. $26790 was what was spent this year, not including what is owed to the city, which is larger. Rick took the original budget and trimmed by about ⅓. Rick commented that the budget was bare bones. City fees have gone up each year. Public question from Gary Pence, asking for clarification on the budget. Heidi walked through the quote from alltech, which will give 2 extra phones, discounted and it will be $40 a month. Second phone needed to have private calls away from patrons. (Not personal calls, calls with businesses, budgets, etc.).

Ron motioned to approve the budget, Mary seconded. Unanimous council vote.

Ron thanked Rick for all his work on the budget and his service to the board.

**Patron user fee-** Jessica and Heidi gave handouts of the policy, highlighting in yellow specific changes made to the patron proposal passed in March. Jessica explained what family cards and individual cards are. Would like to change Individual cards to ages 16 and up. Currently, cards are ages 5 and up for individuals. Gets confusing and would simplify the process when library staff needs to pull information up. Parents will still need to sign up as guardians. Family cards used to be for up to 6 members, now covers households (large families sometimes have more than 6). Still up to Heidi’s discretion when it comes to the cards.

All patrons are required to renew cards once a year - used to be every 3 years. It makes it easier and fair because Mountainside patrons and out of city patrons have to renew every year as well.

The policy of Mountainside students 5+ changes because of the new individual card policy.

Still verifying addresses when patrons renew.

Mountainside cards used to be given to any student. /Mountainside students will now only get one card per household. Library will supply names. Staff will only have the choice of purchasing an individual or family card. Mountainside students are responsible for all fees that can be applied, just like any other patron. Libby/Overdrive card will also have a one year renewal.

All current children accounts from age 5-15 will roll over to next year (August 2022), because it takes a long time to give the option of family or individual card.

Concerning the Non-resident fees, if they don’t want to pay, they can still attend programs and use printers, etc. Just can’t check things out in the library or on Libby.

Took out the option for a summer card. Volunteers can have user fee waived for 10 hours of service. /If they want to serve on FOML, their user fee can also be waived as well (membership dues. Library board members are not included because their property taxes already cover that.

Liz Gabbitas, explained that other libraries in the area were surveyed, and Mendons non-resident fee comes above the Smithfield library (which is a $10 family fee) , but is lower than all the rest in the valley.

Jessica commented on patron user fee - it is expensive to keep the library up and running, the user fee policy is one way to make the library sustainable for years to come. Several budget cuts have been made already, the patron fee will bring in more money and will help with the state certification process. Standard library practice throughout the state is charging for non-resident fees. The old policy needed a lot of clarification, no clear line on boundaries and vague on valid proof of addresses. The reason for choosing to base the decision on city limits is the property taxes. It will now be proof of address in Mendon as well as utility bill. Mendon City residents are already paying for the library through property taxes. If they choose not to pay the fee, they can go to Providence for the free county library. Once again, library check outs and libby checkouts are the only thing that will be excluded from those that do not have cards.

**Community Comments/Questions -**

Paul Willie: Started out with thanks to the library. Believes the library to be a valuable element to the community. Feels strongly about building a community of inclusiveness and inviting all people. Second interest is building a strong library. Finances are important, charging outside should not be a financial solution and will lose support. Exclusive Mendon library vs. inclusive community library. RAPZ is county wide, includes county money. Receive substantial grants from Eccles Foundation, comes from outside of Mendon.

Tammy Trickler: Concerned, suggested having a waiver for those who cannot financially come up with $30. As a business owner, she would happily pay for those who could not afford it.

* Mary brought up the opportunity to volunteer to waive the fee.
* Tammy realizes that, but says it might not be feasible.
* Lisa, do other libraries around have a fee waiver? Liz Gabbitas will do some research into that.

Katie Child: RAPZ is more inclined to give money when it includes the wider community, not just the Mendon population. Cost/benefit analysis will come up short. Will sew discord and ill will with the outside community. She asked that the policy not be implemented, and feels strongly that no one will join.

Bonnie Odd: Bonnie commented the fee will not pay for what money is needed in the library. Many in Petersboro have given service to the library and won’t volunteer here to pay for a card, it seems demeaning.

Craig Smith: Cobblestone resident. Comments on behalf of wife Rebecca, who volunteers for the library. Many residents outside have helped with the building. The Smith family has volunteered several hours themselves. Because of love for library, they would help in any way to keep the library functioning. Craig commented as someone who does not use the library personally, it felt exclusionary. Sure there are many other options that could be put into place without paying for a card.

Cory Wheeler: How much are we paying in taxes? Financially, the library needs more money. Working towards certification will make a huge difference. Solutions on how to make the gap go away. Understands the contention, but Mendon people still have to pay. Free resources are still available to non-residents who would rather not pay. Need to get people more involved and better fundraising.

Stacy Wright: Grateful for the library. She does not think the fee is that nominal of a fee. Could offer waivers for those who are in need. Agrees with Cory, where those who don’t use it still pay taxes, it is just that way. $30 is not un-feasible.

Gary Pence: As president of the Friends of the Library, it breaks his heart to see Heidi have to dig for money to help out at the library. Grateful for grants. Lives in the county, so a non-resident. Wife is upset, and will go elsewhere. Will probably check out free resources at the county library. He does not think that the fee will be paid by that many non-residents. Will create ill will for those.

Greta Anderson: it will not be cost effective to go elsewhere. $30 is not that big of a deal.

Jeremy Martin: if a resource is valuable, people who find it valuable will pay. Many different options. Charge everyone, even residents.

* Jessica: Under Utah State Code, cannot legally charge residents.

**Board comments on Patron User fee -**

Ruth: Great lover of the library, but newest member. It is heart rending both ways. Used to take children to Logan City, then Logan decided to have a fee of $100 per year. Understands how hard it is to be told you can’t use the library. Can create divisiveness. If people don’t want to pay, she gets it. But on the other hand, how can you help raise the extra money to support the library?

Lisa: Appreciate all viewpoints. Can appreciate that this would feel divisive. Would like to know about grants - if it is going to hurt us, we need to know. At the same time, the fee is not a big deal. Feels it is still an inclusive unit.

Liz - can’t say how that difference will affect grant applications. Usually just goes by need, not the size of the community.

Mary: Appreciates that everyone loves the library. Would be wonderful to have more hours and programs, but it is expensive. The goal of everyone is to look to the future and push things forward. Fundamentally, a matter of fairness that everyone should pitch in.

Millie: Has struggled with this decision, has looked to the future. Have to clarify policies, have to look towards the future. Matter of fairness, $30 is pretty fair.

Ron: Agree that revenue shortfall will not be made up here. To be state certified, do we have to have a fee for non-resident state holders?

Liz says no, it is a board decision and will not affect state certification.

He would pay for those who are non-residents. Does not like the divisiveness. Wants to build a community and does not want to drive a wedge with this fee. Propose a fee policy that has everyone paying $0.

\*lots of community comments. Refer to recording. Create more community awareness about financial struggles. Would be easier to get additional donations.

Lisa likes the idea of a suggested donation.

Heidi: Appreciate guarantees of money, but we can’t allow certain people to carry the library. It cannot always be the same people all the time. Likes suggested donations. Need to think of the long term. Sad it has created division, did not intend that at all.

Katie- anyone with an 84325 should get a card and that should be policy.

Mary, vote now or postpone. Ron motion to adopt resolution with $0 fee. Liz says to move to suspend policy voted on in March to have more discussion. Ron reworded motion as such, with the 84325. Lisa motioned to suspend March policy and allow discussion on a new policy. Seconded by Ron. Unanimously in favor.

**Meeting time change for library board –** Mary suggested that meetings move to 6 pm. Millie suggests 6:30 pm. Heidi argues it makes it easier for the public to attend. Mary motioned, Lisa seconded. Unanimously favored.

Ron suggests having a meeting sooner than usual. July 24 at 6:30 pm will be the next meeting. As usual, board meetings are open to the public.

**Update bylaws -** Millie suggests tabling the topic as well, to include the patron policy discussion.

Motion to adjourn by Mary, seconded by Lisa. Unanimous favor. Adjourned at 9:47 pm.