

Robeson Community Library  
Robeson Community Library Board Meeting Minutes  
13 October 2022  
Meeting in Borough Hall

1. Meeting called to order a few minutes after 7:00PM 10/13/22. In attendance Mindy Cohen, Kennon Rice, Wendy Beard, Charles Brown, Leah Ruth (Acting Library Director / Children's Librarian), Carol Werkheiser. James from Castaneda's Mexican Restaurant was also an actively contributing guest at the meeting. Laura Yazemboski was absent with prior notice.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a) Minutes for September approved with edits by unanimous vote.
3. Librarian's Report
  - a) Suggestion to add an online donation mechanism to the website was discussed. Wendy will follow-up with research on how to accomplish this.
  - b) There was discussion about how to appropriately thank those that make contributions. It was decided to handle large donations on a case-by-case basis rather than a blanket policy and that small donations would go without explicit acknowledgement.
  - c) There was discussion of how to decide what goes into the "library of things" and how those get paid for. Leah shared that this year there was \$500 from the county offered in reimbursement. Next year there will be \$1000 but that money will be in a single budget line also including funding for summer and adult programming. However, last year there was only \$347 allotted for summer programming and nothing from the county for adult programming so this means that a considerable amount could still be available to support the "library of things." Each member of the board was tasked with brainstorming before the next meeting about things that might be appropriate to add to our "library of things." Next meeting we will consider how to proceed including consideration for additional public input in the decision making process.
  - d) A discussion ensued as to how we could obtain public input on this topic. A suggestion was made that the borough web page might be willing to share some of our announcements and links. This might help make us more visible and help drive traffic to their page. It was also discussed whether we should make use of one or more of the popular unofficial pages that recount borough information. No decision was made as it was decided by consensus that it would be best to wait until we obtained the results of the brainstorming process described in the previous bullet.
  - e) There was a discussion about potentially adding security cameras to the library space. One informal estimate was that it might cost \$500-\$600 for a single camera with associated software. However, another source suggested that simpler systems may be much cheaper (range of \$60) although there were questions about equivalent capability. Sight lines make it difficult to know how many cameras would be

- necessary pending a careful onsite inspection and details about camera range/scope. Concerns were raised about privacy especially for employees although Leah was in support of adding cameras. The exterior perimeter and the non-library portions of the building appear to already be covered by borough cameras. Additional information must be gathered about the ability of cameras, costs, sight lines etc. Charles is tasked with collecting more information for additional information at a future meeting.
- f) We seem to still be down two board members. Carol will extend an invitation to several acquaintances to see if they are interested in joining the Robesonia library board.
  - g) Leah will reach out to the borough in regards to the use of the meeting room.
  - h) Director's report was moved to be accepted by Wendy, seconded by Kennon and approved by unanimous vote.
4. Financial- Wendy
- a) Next year is a big expensive audit
  - b) Kennon moved to accept the treasurer's report. Mindy seconded. Report was accepted by unanimous vote.
5. New Business
- a- Charles moved to accept the new feedback form for patrons. Carol seconded and was approved by unanimous vote. Leah will move to add access to the form to the circulation desk and the library website.
  - b- Jack Frost Parade – Negotiations were conducted with James, who graciously agreed to allow us to partner with the Castaneda's float, placing signs on either side of the float and distributing fliers for the library with the Castaneda's fliers. Mindy will supply James the signs and Leah will create fliers to share with him.
6. Old Business\*
- a- T-Mobile Grant – no response yet.
  - b- It is unclear whether Charles and Kennon are on the agenda for the October meeting of North Heidelberg's council? Kennon will follow up with Laura to see if she scheduled us. If not, we will attempt to get on the agenda for November.
  - c- Leah reported that we typically make about \$200 a year in fines. This is a tiny fraction of the \$1800 the county is offering in compensation. Leah suggested that if we don't implement a fine free policy then people may just use a different library. Mindy suggested that fines have a disproportionate impact on those with fewer financial means, such as the more affluent can disregard them with little impact, but the more financially challenged experience them as a burden. Wendy suggested that eliminating fines is a lost opportunity to teach accountability/responsibility and promote respect for the institution. Charles moved we go to fine-free. Carol seconded. Proposal passed on vote with no objections and one abstention.

(Next meeting to take place Thursday 11/10/22 in borough hall at 7:00PM.)