

January 26, 2021

Francis Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:32.

Consent Agenda

Francis asked to move the financials out of the consent agenda. Katy Finger moved to approve the consent agenda. Sarah Wise Miller seconded, and all approved.

Treasurer's Report

Ted Burdick reviewed the December financial statements. City funding was decreased due to cost savings from PAUSE closure savings. The endowment performance was disappointing with regard to value stocks, but that index was up 3-4% last year. Otherwise on expense side, employee costs were slightly lower than expected, due to a vacancy and employees not electing to enroll in healthcare. Despite a volatile year, the library ended in a good fiscal position. Nicole Cunningham moved to accept the December financial statements, and Matt Anderson seconded. All approved.

Staff Reports

Chris Shoemaker reviewed the 2020 statistics. Libraries are waiting for guidance from the state on what types of programs count, but we are also able to report to our community differently. 2020 had a significant shift in digital usage - \$53,000 of the collections budget was spent to support ebooks. While all usage stats are lower, the library has been collecting stories and feedback to craft next year's budget messages.

Chris has been working with the Bird Homestead to plan an exhibit of the Bird Collection, and working with staff on advancing the business center through integrating SCORE and other resources.

There was discussion over the timeline for Novel Night in November 2021, as well as feedback on comfort level for public gatherings. Decisions will be made closer to May and June, depending on how vaccine rollout and positive case rates are going. Alternative ideas include delivery boxes, small pods, and virtual events.

Catherine Riedel recapped activities in the public service departments. Virtual food preparation and nutrition programs have resonated with adults and kids, while teens have started to use the circulating game kits. Staff are working to connect residents with appointment services for vaccines.

Auxiliary Board

Chris mentioned that the Auxiliary Board is continuing to recruit new members.

Board Discussion

Francis asked Chris to review the talking points and board dashboard. Chris noted Sarah Prosser, the teen librarian had worked with Rye ACT, pRYEd, and other libraries across Westchester to bring Jessica Kellgren-Fozard, a disability rights activist and fashion Youtuber to talk about the intersectionality of disability, LGBTQIA+, and self expression. Based on the popularity of cubsie pickup, Chris and Catherine are discussing staffing needs to sustain that even after library services return to pre-pandemic models. Chris also shared a draft of the library promotion video that will be shared at the annual meeting.

Francis noted that during past moments of crisis, the library had transformed into a medical center, organized for war efforts, and expanded hours to serve as a charging hub, operating beyond normal library services to meet the community needs. In this time of crisis, would it make sense to transform the library into a vaccine hub, being the community resource for all COVID-19 related information. There was discussion on the value of providing regular service to ensure the community had a refuge from the pandemic, and the need to increase the information provided out about the ways the library was serving as a COVID-19 information hub.

Matt moved to adjourn the meeting, and Kathleen Riegelhaupt seconded. All approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.