

MINUTES OF THE
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD Monday, October 18, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

****VIRTUAL MEETING****

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY WITH ZOOM

ROLL CALL: The Meeting was called to order by Cinda Combs at 5:30 PM

BOARD MEMBERS

CINDA COMBS (CHAIR)
DONNA WIRTEL
JENNIFER JOHNSON
JOAN REICHEL - EXCUSED
WILL GRONLUND
ANGELIKA JOHNSON
NANCY SHAUL - ABSENT

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON: LESLIE JOHNS, WARD 1
CITY STAFF LIAISON: JASON MACOVIAK - LIBRARY MANAGER

THE FOLLOWING WAS DISCUSSED, CONSIDERED, AND/OR DECIDED UPON AT THIS MEETING.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Minutes from the the July 19, 2021 meeting were approved as written

2. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS.

There were no correspondence or communications

3. CALL TO PUBLIC.

There was no call to the public.

OLD BUSINESS.

4. NONE

NEW BUSINESS.

5. STATE OF THE LIBRARY REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY BEING OPEN : Mr. Macoviak gave a brief update on the Library being back open. He said that things were continuing to pick up and that more patrons were returning to the library. He also stated that the library has greeted many new patrons over the past quarter and that families were coming into the library regularly.

STATISTIC : Mr. Macoviak noted that he did not have the full display of statistics available for the meeting but that he would send them out when he was finished with them. He did note that monthly circulation was continuing to rise, as more patrons were making more visits.

STAFFING : Mr. Macoviak announced that all library positions were currently filled. He also mentioned that they only were using a few volunteers due to the ongoing pandemic. He stated that as the pandemic eases, they would bring back more volunteers at both the Main Library and Annex.

GRANTS : Mr. Macoviak gave an update on some of the grants the Library has been working on.

LEGACY FOUNDATION : Mr. Macoviak stated that the CQL did submit the grant to the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona for \$14,000 for the purchase and installation of 3 StoryWalks (one in Garfield Park in Old Bisbee, one in Upper Vista Park in Warren, and one in the FireWise Demonstration Garden at the CQ Library Annex in San Jose). He noted that they probably wouldn't know the results of the grant application until the end of December.

FREEPORT : Mr. Macoviak was proud to announce that the CQL was granted \$70,000 from Freeport McMoRan to use for balcony repairs. He said that both balconies needed immediate work including adding ADA ramps, adding a fourth rail to bring the rail height up to code, and

patching cracks in the floors and ceilings. He did note that the rail plan would be presented to the Bisbee Design Review Board in early November. He said that if they grant approval, the City of Bisbee Public Works Department would do the work.

ARIZONA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION : Mr. Macoviak gave an update on the Annex Patio Project which has been delayed due to ordering and delivery issues caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. He noted that materials had been ordered and that some materials are beginning to arrive, however, serious work on the patio won't start until sometime this winter.

E-RATE ; Mr. Macoviak also stated that Stage 2 of the internet upgrade to the library was still delayed due to the vendor waiting for equipment to be delivered. He stated that he was in contact with the company and that they were going to schedule two visits to the library. The first visit was scheduled for sometime in November, and the second visit would depend on the delivery of parts and equipment.

PROGRAMMING UPDATE: Mr. Macoviak gave a brief overview of current programs. He said that the library was still doing virtual adult programming with zoom. He described other passive programs the library was working on, including this season's Take and Make Adult/Teen kits, and October's 3-Sentence Horror Story Community Program. He talked about the early literacy programs going on at the Annex and stated that Ms. Sheen, the library's early lit coordinator was doing a great job building up the programs, which include Wednesday's Little Book Club and Thursdays Preschool STEAM. He noted that Amie Esteves from the Bisbee Science Lab was working with the library for the STEAM Program.

DISCUSSION : Getting Rid of Library Fines : Mr. Macoviak presented the idea that the Copper Queen Library get rid of all library fines. He stated that many libraries were starting to do this as a way to create true equity in libraries. He stated that fines penalties like fines drive away the people who stand to benefit the most from free library resources, including low income residents and children. He also stated that fines create barriers between patrons and the library and that the CQL is working to remove all barriers, not create them. He also stated that libraries that got rid of their fines were finding that lost patrons were returning to their libraries. He noted that the New York Public Library recently got rid of their fine program, and more locally, the Sierra Vista Public Library did away with theirs as well. Mr. Macoviak explained that patrons would still have due dates for library materials and consequences for overdue books. He laid out how the new program would work : Library patron accounts would be blocked if materials are not returned by the due date, which means that they cannot use their card to check out more materials, both physically and digitally. However, once the materials are returned, their account would be unblocked. Patrons receive email and text notifications when their materials are due and when they are overdue. After 3 weeks, if the materials have still not been returned, the patron would be charged the full amount of the book. And if a patron damages or loses something borrowed from the library, they would still be responsible for replacing the item, or paying for a replacement copy. Mr. Macoviak stated that he thought the Copper Queen Library was ready to make the move and be a model for other small libraries. He also noted that the library brings in about \$2500 / year in fines, which goes directly into the City of Bisbee General Fund. He stated that the library could look at other ways to bring money in, to make up for the loss. He mentioned that the library could advertise services like printing and faxing to make more money for those services. He then asked the opinion of the board. Will Grunlund stated that he was in support of the removal of fines and that he thought it should be as soon as possible. Jennifer Johnson was also in support. Angelika Johnson said that she was also in favor, but was concerned that patrons wouldn't bother to return things on time, affecting other patrons waiting for holds. Cinda Combs stated that she was in support. Donna Wirtel also expressed her support and thought that this would create immediate equity. And, Leslie Johns also expressed support, but also thought that there should be some kind of checks and balances so that patrons didn't take advantage the program. Mr. Macoviak noted that this would have to go before City Council and that the Mayor and Council would have final say of the matter, since the library's fines are written in the Bisbee Code. Mr. Macoviak also stated that he would reach out to the Sierra Vista Library to see how they were dealing with the expressed concerns.

6. **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.** Mr. Combs noted that the next Library Advisory Board Meeting would be held on Monday, January 25, 2022.

7. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM