

League of Women Voters – Pullman – Observer Report
NEILL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD - 4/10/2019
OBSERVER - Zuma Lee Staba

Members present: Jann Hill, Mary Jane Neill, and Kris Boreen (by phone), with Beth Hindman arriving late (excused), and Dan LeBeau excused, Mandy (?) from Friends of Neill Public Library (FNPL), JoAnna Bailey - Library Director and Lori Lewis - Administrative Assistant (Meeting Secretary). ExOfficio Council Rep. Ann Parks was unable to attend;

Jann Hill ran the meeting beginning with the normal approvals of Minutes, Expenditures, and Salaries. Joanna presented the **Director's Report**. She began with an update of Library initiatives. In January they finished conversion to BoardDocs. In February they finished converting to a remote hosted RPA server and in March they completed an A to Z database promo with outreach after which usage increased 38%. New restroom signage has been installed. In an ongoing project with other City employees, three people are doing background research prior to developing/designing a new City website.

Staff planned four programs for the **Summer Reading Program (SRP)** - Virtual Reality, Games, Anime program, and 4H Robotics demonstration. They provided an Ozobot program for Pullman Christian School youth (trial effort). Apparently Ozobots are about egg-size. With special markers one draws a path with different colors causing different behaviors in the Ozobots. Some simple coding is required. They are researching and seeking feedback from other libraries about teen/tween experiences to try to create local programs/spaces attractive to that age group.

Another goal involves **increasing the number of resident cardholders** as well as services such as home delivery service for the place-bound. On four February Saturdays, they partnered with the Community Action Center to provide help with Energy Assistance Programs. In March an author presented a program "Memorials Matter" with the Library able to provide a Virtual Reality component to view the Memorials.

Joanna is consulting the **Public Works** department prior to seeking bids to frame in a staff office to provide privacy for training and other needs. However, the Building Inspector retired so she may have to wait for a new one. Framing in an office sounds like a simple project, but, for example, determining the appropriate type of door requires thought: should it open in or out/ pocket door/ or perhaps a sliding patio door style?

The Library will have a **Booth at the Family Fair** with Ozobot demonstrations and Library Card registration. On 4/18 they will have a table at Kindergarten Registration to give small free books courtesy of the Friends. On Tuesdays beginning 4/23 there will be Virtual Reality (VR) sessions on Tech Tuesdays from 3-6 pm. Reservations can be made in 1/2 hour segments in immersive or immersive interactive VR though the actual time with VR is less. The headsets must be cleaned with alcohol wipes (and must dry) between uses. Remember the Minimum Age for VR is 13. Reservations can be made through the Library. Examples of VR programs include climbing Mt. Everest; swimming in the ocean with sharks, manatees, and manta rays; space and the space station; and a cartoon.

Mandy (?) a co-treasurer from FNPL reported that so far they've received about \$14,825 from their **2019 membership drive**, about 73% of last year's total. However, December, 2019 donations should also provide a significant amount. For Art Fest (5/18) they plan to sell black tote bags (\$20.00) with the new Library logo in color. Call the Library if you wish to reserve one (only 75 in their first printing). They will also sell green mugs with the logo outline. The Library also plans to demonstrate the new Virtual Reality devices at Art Fest.

The next item involved Board review/discussion of the **amended Meeting Rooms policy** insisted upon by the City Attorney who wanted a written policy for public use of the Young and Hecht Rooms. The preliminary draft had been discussed at the last meeting with some changes requested. Joanna wanted to review the policy with staff to gather their input and insights. After that staff meeting, Beth, Lori, Dan, and Joanna met to discuss/modify the Policy memo to incorporate a number of the ideas. They decided to develop separate rules/parameters for each room. The Hecht Room will be available to the public with a group being able to reserve the room for up to two months in advance with a three (3) hour time limit while the Young Room will be available on a same day basis. Apparently the Young Room is often used by Library staff and by the Friends, so the Library staff wanted more availability. It would be possible for requesters to be age 14 or older to reserve the Young Room versus age 18 for the Hecht Room. Obviously each group is expected to leave the room clean and the furniture returned to its prescribed spots. A revised draft will be prepared and sent to the City Attorney for comment then ultimately to the City Council after all issues are resolved. Other than Library sponsored programs it seemed as if the rooms would be available only during hours the Library is normally open.

The other item on the agenda, clarifying the **position of the Library within the City system**, was tabled because Dan LeBeau was absent. He has been involved in many of the discussions on the topic for a

number of years and has the best “historical memory” other than Joanna. It was agreed that he should be present for any discussion.

The **Ingleside Book Club** is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. As part of that celebration the Club has commissioned some art pieces with a literacy theme. A 4’ bench with wagon wheel sides and farm tools on back (all well-sanded for safety) has been created and welded by metal artist Shelly Gilmore, a welder by passion. She did a piece now installed on Grand near the Library on the running path. Shelly has also created at least one other piece for placement on the Library corner by the clock which will be shown during Art Fest.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm. The next meeting will be held at the regular time, 3:00 pm, Wednesday, May 8.