

**Minutes of the James River Valley Library System Board of Directors  
Library Board Meeting  
Wednesday, August 11, 2021**

Board members present were Jay Nitschke, Char Freeberg, Pam Phillips, Joan Morris, Carolgene Wolf, Emaline Roorda, and Gail Martin. Absent was City Ex-Officio David Schloegel. Also present were Library Director Joe Rector and Assistant Director Jill Pfaff.

Jay called the meeting to order at 3:28 pm.

MINUTES

Gail made a motion to accept the July 14 minutes, with the correction of naming the board members who voted nay on the Library Building Fund motion; seconded by Emmy. 6 ayes, 1 nay (Joan). Motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Joe gave the financial report for the month of July.

BILLS TO BE PAID, PAYROLL AS PAID, AND AUTO PAY AS PAID

Char made a motion to approve the bills to be paid, the payroll as paid, and auto pay as paid, seconded by Pam. Roll call vote showed 7 ayes, 0 nays. 0 absent. Motion carried.

SPACE NEEDS STUDY UPDATE

Joe reported that the second space needs study meeting with JLG Architects will be Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Joe also reminded the board that a public meeting will need to be held before the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with the architects.

2022 BUDGET COMPARISON OF ADPL AND SCL

Char made a motion to accept the 2022 budget comparison of ADPL and SCL as presented by Joe, seconded by Carolgene. Roll call vote showed 7 ayes, 0 nays. 0 absent. Motion carried.

IMPACT OF SCL BUDGET CUTS

With the County budget cut of \$60,000 for the library, Joe provided possible options of how to operate SCL with the reduced funding.

- Char made a motion to accept Joe's proposal, listed on the handout to reduce funding for 2022 budget, and to have Joe come back with an outline to see what the numbers look like; seconded by Pam after Gail withdrew her second. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes, 2 nays (Joan and Gail). 0 absent. Motion carried.
- Gail made a motion that Joe come to the library board at the next board meeting with his plan of when and how much he is going to save, showing the \$60,000 reduction; seconded by Joan. Roll call vote showed 5 ayes, 2 nays (Pam and Char). 0 absent. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Gail suggested that the public needs to be weaned away from Stutsman County Library. She said that she feels strongly that the board needs to start by substantially reducing the library hours to the public and eventually close SCL..

Joan said that she feels the issue with SCL is that staffing the library to serve 30 people per day with another library with duplicate services 10 blocks away doesn't make sense.

Joe said we all need to all be under one roof before we close one or both of the libraries. He thinks it would be very difficult to close one library, then try to get a new or expanded facility. Secondly, with all the duties the branch manager has, she needs to be there even if the doors are shut, as she is very busy making sure

things are running effectively. If the branch manager is not there and working, then the bookmobile operations will quickly go south.

Gail clarified with Joe that what he is saying is that we need to have a facility that would encompass everything before SCL could close. She said that could be 10-20 years from now and she finds that unacceptable, that shutting the County library public access can't be worked towards. She said due to all the extra work that the branch manager does, at some point bookmobile staff will need to tell rural patrons that they don't have time to research all the books that they have had from the library and are unable to pick out more books for them. She also said the board has been given a directive from the County and wouldn't be surprised if down the road the City will do the same thing. Gail said we can't operate business as usual in this economy.

Jay told Gail that nobody is saying to operate business as usual. We are saying to cut library hours, cut staff some, and readjust where we can to get things lower.

Gail said we need to look for \$60,000, cut the budget, and she doesn't think that it should come out of savings, but to look at budgeted items to save.

Gail made a motion to change the SCL hours to 10-2. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Joan asked the library board if they are going to ignore the wish of the City and County residents in the 2008 vote to consolidate the library. Joan then asked the board what the long term plan is. She also asked if we are moving forward with a plan to listen to what the voters said 13 years ago and wanted to know if there is no interest in that.

Emmy responded to Joan and said her understanding is that a plan was already in motion with the space needs study. She said she doesn't think the 2008 vote has been ignored.

Joan said the vote in 2008 was to consolidate the libraries and that they are not consolidated.

Joe replied that the 2008 vote did not vote to consolidate the library buildings; they voted to establish joint library service. The vote did not provide authorization decision on what should be done with the two libraries. Joe then read # 7 of the Memorandum of Agreement between the City and the County. He said that it is up to the board whether either or both libraries will be discontinued.

Joan then questioned the Library of Things. She said that she doesn't feel that the Library of Things is part of the core library business, and believes that to spend that kind of money on something that's not a core business of the library is foolish.

#### COVID RECOMMENDATIONS

Gail made a motion to update the COVID restrictions as presented by Joe, seconded by Carolgene. Roll call vote showed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. Motion carried.

#### REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Joe reported that the Friends of the Library has raised over \$17,000 for the Library of Things.

#### REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Joe presented statistics for the month of July.

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 3:30 pm, ADPL.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Jay adjourned the meeting at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Pfaff