

Mendon City Library Board Meeting

DATE: October 10, 2019

Attendees

Library board members: Katie Child, Lisa Robins, Millie Smith, Mandy Powell, Paul Willie, Bonnie Odd, Rick Shelton. Library directors: Maren Benson, Brittany Benson.

Update on the library

Librarians, Brittany Benson and Maren Benson, updated the board on the library. Maren reported that the circulation numbers for the summer were 2,593 in July (all-time high), 2,144 in August, and 1,827 in September. Maren said online library usage for audio and e-books has greatly increased, which has increased the library's circulation numbers. She is grateful for this resource.

Maren reported that the summer reading program was a success with 146 kids signing up. Twenty-three kids completed the program. Brittany updated the board on the library's summer programming. A total of 404 people attended programming during the summer months. Both Brittany and Maren felt the summer reading program this year was an improvement over the past summer. In September, the library had a Batman Day Celebration for children and book tasting for adults. Brittany said the book tasting program led to patrons checking out books that not previously circulated. Brittany advertises the programming on local Facebook groups, the post office, and library. In October, the library will host Mysteries and Macrons on October 15 and Candies from Around the World on October 30.

Maren reported that a group of children line up to use the computers after school. The current computer policy limits computer usage to 45 minutes if someone is waiting to use a computer. However, Maren said the board might want to consider a 45-minute daily computer limit. Maren said there is software available to limit computer usage but costs about \$700 per year. At this point, the board does not want to purchase the software. The board would like to move the computers to the south computer desks to eliminate crowding in the entry and around the shelving.

Budget update

Rick reviewed the library budget. The board felt the budget looked good. Maren said the library needed more shelving for children's books. Rick will add money to capital expenditures to cover the cost of four new shelves (approximately \$450 per shelf). Katie will order the shelving from Brad Parkinson.

New librarian

Maren gave her two-week notice to Katie Child. Maren has gotten a full-time job and will be working on a master's degree in library science. Katie advertised the position and has been interviewing potential candidates.

Library hours

Some patrons requested the library open at 3:30 pm so that they can come to the library when school lets out. The board approved changing the afternoon hours. The library will now be open from 3:30 to 7:30 pm Monday through Thursday. Mandy volunteered to make new vinyl hours for the library window.

Bell

Paul reported that Campbell Scientific donated money to the Friends of the Library for the purchase of a bell. Paul proposed planning a bell ringing campaign through the library. For example, the library could run a bell ringing campaign for children who meet their reading goals. You could also ring the bell for community events, such as May Day, or perhaps ring the bell hourly during the daytime hours.

Meeting adjourned

The meeting was adjourned until Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 8 pm in the reading room of the library.