

## **Blanco County South Library District**

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
9:30 A.M. Library Conference Room**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30, and a quorum was established.

Attendees: Nancy Cline, Sibby Barrett, Pat Clewell-Smith, Evann Ramsey, Andrea Whitesides, Brian Fields, Rosalind Ellis, Jack Twilley, Debra Raimond, Crystal Spybuck, Marilyn Melton

Approval of January 14, 2025, minutes: Sibby moved to accept. Jack seconded, and minutes were approved.

#### **Unfinished Business**

1. Board Positions: The deadline for filing for position on the board is Friday, February 14 by 5P.M. Andrea and Debra will both file to fill the two open positions. Forms are to be given to Crystal. If there are no other applicants, the item will not need to be on the general election ballot.
2. Hiring of part time Program and Community Outreach Coordinator: Nine applications have been received; five have been chosen for interviews. Crystal and Brian will make a recommendation for board approval.
3. Website design: The photographer was hired and has already taken photographs, which will need to be previewed before being added to the website.
4. Report on water sample: Jack reported that the library is now on the schedule for testing.
5. Survey of property for pocket meadow completed. The property goes to the fence line on the south, but it stops before reaching the creek.
6. Paver for high school performing arts center: A large paver with the library icon will cost \$400; the mockup of the paver will be sent to the board for final approval before etching. In addition to the icon, the paver will say Blanco County South Library District. Jack moved to approve spending \$400 for the paver. Sibby seconded, and the motion was approved.
7. Rotary Club summer reading support: Jack met with the elementary school principal, who is very enthusiastic about the program. More meetings will be held to finalize details. This will involve K-3 students who have been chosen by their teachers for targeted instruction. Trinity Lutheran Church will host the tutoring sessions. The Rotary Club will be asking for volunteers from the community who will then receive training before sessions begin.
8. Status of audit report: Andrea has asked for the final report from the auditor.

#### **New Business**

1. Proposed election contract with the County, if needed: The board will only need to contract with the county if there are more than two applicants for the two open positions. The deadline for contracting with the county is 5P.M. on February 25. The cost of the contract is based on the number of entities needing to be on the ballot, but the last time it was needed it cost close to \$8,000. The board decided to wait until the close of business on February 14 before determining if a ballot vote is needed.

2. Friends of the Library funds for capital improvement: The funds will come from a CD that has matured, and Friends of the Library requests that the funds be designated for capital improvement. The board is happy to accept the donation. A new account for capital funds will be opened at the bank that is offering the highest interest rate on CDs. The check will go to Pat for deposit.
3. Report on Feb. 4 city council meeting: This was a workshop meeting to set the agendas for the Feb. 11 meeting. On the agenda will be the reallocation of tax income from the library district as well as the ESD district.  
This is concerning on several levels. 1. Currently one-third of the yearly library budget (approximately \$122,500) comes from tax revenue. 2. The South Library District, created in 2002, was voted on by voters in Precincts 1 and 4 of Blanco County. Therefore, it is those voters, not the city, who are eligible to vote on the reallocation of income. 3. State laws supersede city laws so there is a question of legality. 4. The board needs time to seek legal advice.  
Both Nancy and Crystal will speak before the city council about the issue and will ask for the agenda item to be tabled until we have time to seek legal advice. Sibby moved to spend up to \$1,000 on legal advice. Jack seconded, and the motion was approved.
4. Investment Report – Pat Clewell Smith: Reports were emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Renewals on CDs and investments will occur in May.
5. Friends of the Library report- Rosalind Ellis: Dinner and a movie was very successful. Real Ale made a donation of \$4,211 from the Real Ale Bike Ride to the Friends. Future activities may include an author day at the library.
6. Blanco Library, Inc. report – Marilyn Melton: The next meeting will be in March.
7. Budget and Finance report – Evann Ramsey: In January the library received \$10,000 from the will of former volunteer Gwen Risinger. The money will be used for the pocket meadow. January bills total \$36,266.85. Andrea moved to pay January bills; Sibby seconded. The motion was approved.
8. Deputy Library Director's Report – Brain Fields: January statistical reports have been posted to the shared drive. There was a great turnout for Reading with a Ranger. The nonfiction section of the library is in the process of being "weeded"; books have been moved to the sales area of the library.
9. Library Director's Report – Crystal Spybuck: Crystal attended a district library director' meeting at the end of January. Of special note were the workshops on HR issues, legislation language, and library renovation considerations. The high school special needs students came to the library for a presentation. They were assisted in applying for a library card. HOT IT will look at the cost of replacing a failed backup battery. In addition, five laptops will need to be replaced. Katy is creating a committee to work on the pocket garden. Dorothy is now one of our volunteers. Inventory is on-going. Coral is now working. Her son is with the sheriff's department, and Crystal is hoping he can work with the staff on de-escalation training. It is time to request allocated funds from the county and the city. Marilyn will get the key to the outside sheds and will begin cleaning. The front sign (on 281) is working. The city is changing requirements for outside signage, so the library will need to apply for an exception.

Announcements: Next board meeting – March 11, 2025

Adjournment: 11:10