

Alva Public Library

504 7th Street, Alva, OK (580) 327-1833

The Alva Public Library Board met on January 6th, 2020 in the Share Conference Room at the Alva Public Library. Members present were: Chairman Mrs. Lynn Wilt, Ms. Linda Joseph, Ms. Marilyn Clyne, Mrs. Patty Harkin, Mrs. April Ridgway, Mr. Len Reed and Council Representative Chris Eckhardt.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Wilt. Mr. Reed made a motion that the December 2nd, 2019 minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marilyn Clyne. Those voting in favor of the motion: City Council Member Chris Eckhardt, Mr. Reed, Ms. Clyne, Mrs. Harkin, Mrs. Ridgway, Ms. Joseph and Chairman Wilt.

Library data and Financial Report

The library data and financial reports were presented by Library Director Sandra Ott-Hamilton. The reports were discussed by the board members. Director Ott-Hamilton reported a slight increase in materials that were checked out during the month on December. The holiday season usually impacts circulation numbers. Demand for Internet access remains high with the Internet being accessed 918 times during the month of December. The library gained 9 new patrons and hosted 18 meetings during the month. Six hundred forty e-books/e-audio/e-magazines were checked out in December.

Council Report

City Council Representative Eckhardt reported the City Council meeting included the Retirement System renewal. Items concerning the Tourism Tax were addressed and work will be done on the waterline on Lane Street. The REAP project was also on the agenda as well as action reducing the annual budget due to the swimming pool vote. A Swimming Pool Task Force has been formed.

Library Report

The library received notification of the electronic transfer of funds to the City of Alva in the amount of \$7993.00 for State Aid funding. The library needs to replace one computer that could not be upgraded to Windows 10 and has 2 monitors that need to be replaced. The State Aid funds will be used to purchase these items and other projects for the library.

Library staff is resuming youth programming that was suspended during the holidays. A new coding class for youth has been added to the afterschool schedule with

the result that after school youth programming is now being held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Little Explorers program is still held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00.

The Brown Bag Lunch area is open for people who work in Alva but live out of town to bring in their lunch and eat in quiet relaxed atmosphere. The area is located on the first floor in the Northwest Corner. The area will be open from 11:00am till 2:00pm.

Last January ALA, the American Library Association requested that libraries consider not charging fines for overdue books. A variety of public libraries in the past year have installed new policies with the intent that more books would be returned if fines were not charged and the patrons did not feel punished for returning books that were late. The result for the majority of the libraries has been very positive. Procedures are set in place to encourage the timely return of library materials and any materials that are not returned result in the patrons losing all library privileges until the items are returned. If the items are lost or destroyed the materials need to be paid for to reinstate library services. The library staff has started tracking funds for the month of January to see if the money collected at the library are fines, charges for copies or charges for fines. Director Ott-Hamilton will provide the board members with this information at the February meeting. If the Board recommends following the ALA recommendation the matter will then be brought to the City Council for review and approval.

Director's Report

Several patrons had inquired about the library having access to the Wall Street Journal. It was not possible within the budget to purchase a subscription. BancCentral has been sharing their subscription with the library on a weekly basis. The library is very appreciative of their generosity. The library is now closing at 7:00pm on Mondays during the winter months. If a group schedules a meeting that goes later than 7:00 a library employee will stay on the premises. Arrangements must be made in advance.

Board Member and Visitor comments

There were no comments from the library board members and the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lynn Wilt.