



Library Advisory Board
March 7, 2023

Vice-President Beth Walker called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm in the large meeting room of the Library. Others present were Susan Dade, Deborah Younggren, Linda Barnett, Sandy Schuetz, Rae Aaron, Kaitlyn Hirst, Danny Parker, Valerie Martin, and Summer Valverde.

The **secretary's report** was approved with the correction of the date March 7, 2023. (Debbie/Susan)

Friends of the Library Report – Debbie

We had 181.5 volunteer hours including the book sale and plaque construction.

Head Librarian's Report – Valerie

- There will be no teen activities until a new teen services librarian is hired. Sadly, this includes no summer reading program activities.
- The Greater Artesia Foundation had given us \$10,000 but approved \$11,847.70. These items are listed in last month's minutes. Six of the STEAM units are on the shelf already. The replacement seats for the Promenade are in transit.
- She is working on a patron/community survey to go out to the public soon, to help us with our Strategic Planning process. This will become effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026.
- With staff promotions and new staff to be hired, Professional Development Series has begun for staff members.
- Wendy Kilpatrick has been promoted to Adult Services Librarian.
- **We voted to go out for quotes for the installation for the new IT equipment.** (Linda/Debbie)
- Valerie will attend the Pansy Stockton Sunshine Day in Santa Fe and bring home the 8 paintings borrowed for the event. She will also take brochures on our library and artwork, including the Peter Hurd mural.

Old Business

Artesia Public Library By-laws and 10th Anniversary plans will continue to appear under this heading.

New Business

Summer, the city treasurer/city clerk, talked at length about the City's money problems.

- The City Council and Mayor had a retreat in Cloudcroft recently to focus on financial needs of the community.
- They have \$26 million in revenue with an expense budget of \$31 million.
- There's approximately \$5 million in reserves.
- The library's budget is almost \$1,000,000.
- 94% of the GRT comes from taxes.
- In 2020 the oil & gas monies went down and have not come back up.
- 70% of the budget goes to city personnel salaries.
- \$635,000 covers the total salary allotment for 8 people at the library.
- When Danny asked for the "bottom line" for the library, Summer said that she had no answer.

Library Board members, Sandy Schuetz and Deborah Younggren will go off the Board the end of June, 2023. The replacement process will begin in March with new terms starting in July.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

The next meeting will be April 4, 2023, 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Schuetz, secretary