

City of Alamosa
Alamosa Public Library Board
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2017
5:30pm

I. Roll Call

Present: Heather Brooks, Laura Bruneau, Patty Campbell, Dawn Krebs, Michele Romero, Jan Vigil, Mary Walsh, Mandy Wilner. Staff: Andy Rice and Salai Taylor.

II. Agenda Approval

Heather moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Dawn; vote was unanimous.

III. Approval of Minutes

Heather motioned to approve the minutes from the July meeting, seconded by Mary; vote was unanimous.

IV. Public Comment (none)

V. Presentations (none)

VI. Policy Discussion (none)

VII. Update on Current Programs/Items

a. Library Manager Report

Salai asked if the minutes included the library report or if it just included a review of the report. Heather said they can attach it to the minutes and include them when presented.

Salai presented the updated record highs with a new record of 935 interlibrary loan circs in a single month for August 2017. She reported that this number increased when the library started to loan out more of their items to other libraries. As a result, all the DVDs were “flying off the shelves.” She added it would be interesting in the future to see how this affects the general statistics. The library has changed from giving out wifi tickets to having an open portal, like at Cole Park. Therefore, there is no definitive way of collecting statics for wifi use. Andy added that the Rec Center also implemented the open portal but users have to comply with the terms and conditions. Salai stated that the staff was relieved that they do not have to give out tickets. They are now collecting numbers for physical computer users.

Patty and Leroy put in 23.5 volunteer hours in August and a new group has been added to the list for community involvement. There are currently 8 Little Free Libraries, 7 of which are sponsored by the Alamosa Public Library. Since they are self-maintaining, there isn't any statistics for use. Salai mentioned that the LFL in Zapata Park keeps losing its window. Don Thompson put a plastic sheet over it for the rain, but it will need to be replaced again. The Friends of the Library made \$380 in July, \$504 in August, and donated \$5,000. The library is now waiting for the delivery of the book bike which was purchased with the District Rotary Grant.

They plan on unveiling it on Oct. 18th. Salai said they were having a meeting with the rotary club next Monday at noon at the library to give them a tour of what they helped buy. Andy praised the library staff for making the grant go a long way and with diverse projects.

b. Children's Librarian Report

Salai announced that Becky, the children's librarian will be leaving sometime between December and March. Mandy added that she would have held this position for 5 years in February.

Salai reported that there were 850 visitors in July for the summer reading program and the CU Museum of Natural Sciences and the Science Discover Center came to do educational programs. The City Services fair gave out 23 books, made and gave out popcorn, and passed out information before they were rained out. Mandy asked what the Xs on the final count of the summer reading program meant and Salai reported they were supposed to be updated and will get the actual numbers. Mary asked what FFN stood for and Salai conveyed it's for Family, Friends, and Neighbors in the Growing Readers Together program. She stated that the program gives out kits that have games, books, and literature for kids under the age of 5. The program focuses on stimulating their brains and helping them learn to read. The kits are given to a child care provider.

There wasn't a Storytime in August, but it resumed in September. The library was invited to participate in a community breastfeeding event in Cole Park hosted by Valley-Wide and WIC on September 16th. There they were in contact with 34 kids, only one of which was from a family that regularly comes to the library. The Growing Readers Together grant promotes the reading of 1000 books before kindergarten. There are currently 5 child care takers that have received a kit and hopefully they will find some more. The PAD was added just in time for the open house on September 1st. Patty asked if it was for anyone to use and Salai replied it was for kids. Patty asked if a librarian has to be present while using The PAD and Salai asserted they didn't. The Kiwanis club made 5 sensory boards for kids to touch, unlock doors, etc.

VIII. Programs/Items

a. Colorado State Library-State grant

With the State grant they can purchase books, e-books, database subscriptions, and other educational resources. The grant will be for \$4,500, which has been used since 2013 to purchase childhood books, early literacy professional books, children's online database "Tumblebook Library," additional books for the story box project, created a language center, family resource center, and audiobooks on CD. They have also created a special needs collection. Stats have dropped so they are now building the electronic database. There were so many problems with the last program that people stopped using it. The Cloud Library is a new program

that started with 0 items has been growing now that libraries have been adding to it. It is hard for companies because there are so many devices and Kindle makes it difficult to use.

b. Colorado State Library-Growing Readers Together Grant

The Growing Readers Together grant had a launch meeting on September 7th and they will need a submitted plan before the library can draw any money. They will only receive \$4,000 and therefore will have to change what they had planned to do. The main focus will be the FFN: finding them, giving them kits, and planning events for them to attend. They will then need to hire a part-time person with the grant for those events. Then they will create some Spanish kits that will be straight Spanish, not bilingual. If there is any money left, they will make a new professional sign for the Family Resource Center.

c. Farmer's Market event

The farmer's market event took place on September 23rd and they were able to give out some books, then they had to pack up early when it started to rain.

d. Read to MOOSE program-Laura Bruneau

Laura proposed starting the program in the fall or maybe in the spring and wanted to know the board's input. Salai asked how Laura felt it went last time. Laura explained that she and Moose are a therapy dog team that work with struggling readers. She has done 2 semesters so far at the library, one Wednesday a month for early release. There have been at least 5 and up to 10 kids that have participated in a session. Often a large family would show up which has gone pretty well. The parents who've come shared appreciation for it but the younger children that came in thought it was playtime and not reading time. There were also 2-3 year olds that came in and tried to grab at Moose. Mandy asked if The PAD was too close and if the parent could stand outside. Laura disclosed the parent shouldn't be in the room. Mandy asked if they can add a sign that said "no adults allowed." Salai mentioned that it's the little kid that follows that is usually the problem. Laura voiced that staff was doing a good job at it; they just have to push it a bit.

Laura revealed there are families that come in and she doesn't want to turn the whole family away; it's a case by case type thing. Michele asked if they could offer something concurrently for non-readers. Laura announced at the end of the program kids were given a small stuffed animal that looked like Moose and they can read to that. Maybe they could set-up a space for small children with stuffed animals to read to. Dawn asked if there was a supplemental budget for that. Salai asked if it was to take home and Laura replied no it would be something to leave at the library. Patty suggested purchasing a big stuffed dog at Wild Roses for \$45. Mary expressed she would love to see the program continue and Dawn stated that she could already see the positive benefits coming back Laura added she would

love to continue. Salai asked if the response was better the second time and Laura reported the first was from 4-6pm, this time we made it 3-5pm on early release. Mary asked if they would be able to carry on without Becky's assistance and Laura answered yes, that Becky usually worked in the mornings Michele asked if the goal was that they would go home and read to their own pets. Laura said no, it was just to get them to read and feel comfortable reading out loud. Michele asked if they could put up pictures of children reading to their pets and present them at the library. Laura disclosed a lot of kids talk about going home and reading to their dogs. Patty stated that Laura put out a lot of good publicity. Laura reiterated that they would have to set down and come up with some dates for early releases. They can then ask anyone who wants to help out and make it as cute as possible. Laura added that Moose could've marched in the parade for the library and Salai suggested that they add him with the book bike and/or the read wagon. They added that they can make this a library board project: putting something together for the parade.

IX. Board Comment

The board welcomed Michele Romero and gave a brief overview of what they do and discuss in the bimonthly meetings.

X. Adjournment

Mary moved to adjourn, seconded by Dawn; vote was unanimous.

Next meeting: November 28, 2017

Mary moved to adjourn, seconded by Dawn.