

MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
LONSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
August 15, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Boyda at 6:32 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, 1006 Birch Street NE.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Boyda, Furrer, Kodada, Langer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matchinski

STAFF PRESENT: Diana Tallent, Library Director; Joel Erickson, City Administrator; Jenni Geist, Circulation Clerk; Darlene Smisek, Shelving Clerk

VISITORS: Jan Hunter, Robert Elliott (SELCO Board Representative)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Furrer to approve the agenda, 2nd by Langer. Motion carried 4-0.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve amended minutes by Furrer, 2nd by Boyda. Motion carried 4-0.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

6. PRESENTATION OF CITIZENS PETITIONS AND COMMENTS – COMMENTS LIMITED TO TWO (2) MINUTES

Smisek spoke on behalf of the good work that Tallent does for the Lonsdale Public Library (LPL) and in turn the City of Lonsdale. She emphasized that maintaining a quality library is good for the City of Lonsdale, and requested that the additional staff hours previously approved by the Board be used to make Tallent's position full time with the remaining hours to be distributed among the other two staff members (herself included).

Hunter also spoke on behalf of the good work that Tallent does for the LPL. She indicated that in her opinion that an additional position is not needed at the LPL.

Elliott reminded the Board that he is the LPL's representative on the SELCO board. He informed the Board that Tallent does not push any work off onto her staff that she is not willing to do herself and that she has many additional duties as the LPL Director including but not limited to organizing the LPL's Friends organization. Elliott informed the Board that he does not feel that Tallent's request to be made full time is unreasonable given her work requirements at the LPL.

7. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and non-controversial and are to be acted upon by the Board in a single motion. There will be no discussion of these items unless a Board Member or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered during the New Business.

None

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was presented. Motion by Kodada, 2nd by Langer to approve the financial report. Motion carried 4-0.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tallent reported that the budget presentation to Rice County went well. The three directors were unable to use the planned presentation due to Rice County technology difficulties, but they did have handouts available as a back-up.

Tallent received an MLA scholarship and reported to the Board that she is hopeful that she will be able to send her staff members to at least one session each this year.

Tallent reported a problem with a toilet in the Men's bathroom that she was able to resolve with the help of a City employee.

Tallent reported a water leak problem inside the LPL. It was determined the leak was the result of plugged window drains and the problem has been resolved.

Tallent's most recent Lonsdale News and Review article was on trans-literacy.

Tallent made a visit to a resident of The Villages to assist her with the listening of an audiobook.

The Zender family sent a thank-you to the LPL for the Summer Reading Program.

Tallent reported that she has scheduled her two LPL staff in such a way that the LPL operations will continue uninterrupted during her upcoming vacation.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Staff – hiring vs. additional hours for current staff:

Langer reiterated how the Board came to the decision of adding an additional employee in place of giving existing staff all of the newly authorized twelve hours. In short the Board felt the flexibility an additional employee would provide to Tallent and the LPL outweighed their desire to award the existing staff with additional hours.

Geist reported to the Board that in her view the past history of staffing coverage at LPL does not indicate that an additional employee is needed.

Kodada, Furrer and Erickson confirmed the logic behind the Board's decision as described by Langer.

Tallent reported to the Board that a lack of warm bodies is not the problem at the LPL and that in her view hiring an additional employee will not be more advantageous than giving more hours to existing employees.

Kadoda expressed her concern that the position the Board approved at the last meeting had not been advertised as the Board requested. After some discussion it was determined that a communication and misunderstanding of autonomy and how Tallent was to proceed with this directive in addition to Boyda's request of the Board President that the decision be revisited were the main causes of this delay.

Smisek question whether the Board could reverse a previous decision and Langer affirmed that the Board could reverse a previous decision with a new vote.

Boyda made a motion to reverse the Board's previous decision to hire an additional employee and instead increase the hours of the three existing staff members at the LPL. There was no second and the motion failed.

Furrer requested that Tallent advertise for the new ten-hour position as previously approved.

- b. Tallent's position status: Langer and Boyda confirmed their previous positions that Tallent's position should be reclassified as an exempt position. Kodada reiterated her feeling that the position should remain an hourly position. Furrer requested that the decision be revisited again in the future and the decision was made that Tallent will place her position status on the Board's agenda in six months.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 19, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m. in the small meeting room.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Furrer, 2nd by Langer to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by
Patricia Langer
Secretary