

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE HEWITT LIBRARY BOARD
HEWITT, TEXAS**

January 17, 2023, 6:00 pm

Members present

Sally Goldman, President
Lydia Dashner, Vice President
Julie Holcomb
Betty J. Smith
Jenny Hunt

Members absent

Jerry Snider

A. Call to Order

Sally Goldman called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

B. Consider approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes were reviewed by the board, and Lydia Dashner made a motion to approve previous minutes without any corrections. Motion was seconded by Julie Holcomb and approved by unanimous voice vote.

C. New Business - Election of Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary)

Election of officers was held for the coming year. Ryan Erck resigned from the board last year, and Betty Smith was added to the board last year. Lydia Dashner made a motion to elect Sally Goldman as president, and Betty Smith seconded this motion; it was then approved by unanimous voice vote. Jenny Hunt made a motion to elect Lydia Dashner as vice president, and that motion was seconded; it was then approved by unanimous voice vote. Julie Holcomb made a motion to elect Jenny Hunt as secretary, and that motion was seconded by Lydia Dashner; it was then approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. Director's Report

- (1) **Events:** the library's 40th anniversary celebration took place on December 8, 2022 and was a huge success. Waynette noted that the library's scrapbooks were present and will be updated on an ongoing basis. The anniversary celebration will be featured in the upcoming *Hewitt Chamber Express* newsletter.
- (2) **Staffing:** The lead clerk position posted and has received eight applications. The goal is to hire by the end of February. One other position, a part-time collection development specialist position, was pulled due to lack of candidates. Waynette noted that hiring six new employees in 2022 who did not have library experience has been challenging but rewarding. Training materials have been developed as a result of the new hires.
- (3) **HPL on the Go trailer:** the library received a \$52,000 grant for HPL on the Go from the state library group; HPL will serve as a test case/model for smaller libraries in Texas. No CDL license will be needed to tow the trailer, but there will be training given for backing up the trailer. The city provided a vehicle to the library during COVID that will be used to tow the trailer. The trailer includes a number of features such as awnings, external lighting, generator, speaker system, and handwashing station and will be used to store summer programming materials. The library can use the trailer to loan Chromebooks and can park at job sites when needed to help people submit job applications. Delivery of the

trailer will take place in the next couple of weeks, and the trailer will then go to a graphic designer for branding and credits. There will be a ribbon cutting event. The trailer will also help local school leaders to research neighborhood-level literacy.

- (4) **Library leadership opportunities:** Waynette is currently participating in an eleven-member library director group on DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) initiatives. The material developed from this group will eventually become a course to train library directors in starting community conversations. Waynette will be reaching out to board members for input. Waynette will be presenting about mental health in youth at the Texas Library Association annual conference on April 19-22 in Austin, Texas. HPL board members are invited to attend activities for library friends and boards. Waynette noted that mental health for youth (ages 11+) has been an area of concern since COVID. HPL's Community Conversations program (funded by a \$2,000 grant) was an attempt to address this issue, as were grant-funded mental health kits that the library put together. Public health is one of five key public library charges.
- (5) **Friends of the HPL:** the Friends group raffle made \$2,000, and the silent auction made \$1,800, plus there was a \$500 donation. One need at the library is space for school-age children (K-6th grade). Friends funds might be used to furnish spaces for this age group. Space is a concern currently, as the large city council room is being used for public events such as voting, and children's events and storytimes often draw large crowds. The library may need to limit participant numbers or switch to virtual storytimes temporarily. The hope is that a library annex or community center adjoining the library building may become a possibility in the future.
- (6) **Questions and Comments:** Waynette noted that the city is in process of hiring a police chief. She also mentioned that she recently testified about library funding for the state (for the state's every-two-year budget review). Jenny Hunt asked about the library moving from Overdrive to Libby for ebooks; this is being done because Overdrive is an Amazon-aligned product and is no longer being supported. Sally Goldman noted that the Friends of the HPL luncheon will take place on January 24 from 12-1 in the library workroom and that all are welcome.

E. Adjourn

Lydia Dashner moved to adjourn around 7:20 pm. Motion was seconded by Julie Holcomb and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

Jenny Hunt, *Secretary, Hewitt Library Board*