

*Collegedale Public Library*

*Board Meeting*

*Tuesday January 9, 2024*

**Members present:** Stan Cottrell, Chris Dortch, Christine Henderson, Jennifer Mullins, Kevin Kibble (chair)

**Also present:** Regina Mullins and Sarah Richardson

**Community Voices:**

10 minute discussion from Conni Leonessa- a resident who has served as a Pediatric Registered Nurse:

- Provided a timeline of events for her request to hold a seminar including her first request through her denial in December
- Read aloud a statistic on sexual abuse
- Inquired about the reasoning for denying her request, why the library had not responded to her questions, and why had the board members she contacted not respond.

Board questions related to discussion presented by Conni Leonessa:

- Who is the target audience for the discussion?
  - Parents
- What sources and materials are including in the presentation?
  - Materials presented by PAXA (Parents Against Child Sexual Abuse)
  - The Serpents Among Us- How to Protect Your Children From Sexual Predators by Patrick Crough
    - Book is written by former police investigator whom Conni has received permission to use his materials in her discussions.
- What was the goal of the opinion piece written on The Tennessee Conservative website?
  - To let the public know what is going on.
- Have you presented your seminar locally? Follow up questions: If yes, where? And Have you presented this material at other libraries?
  - Yes, in churches and for home schooling groups.
  - No, the information has not been presented in local community libraries.

Board motions as a result of community discussion:

1. Motion to affirm the libraries decision to deny the request to host seminar.

- a. Role call for vote:
  - i. Chris Dortch- Aye
  - ii. Christine Henderson- Aye
  - iii. Stan Cottrell- Aye
  - iv. Jennifer Mullins- Aye
  - v. Karon Powell- Absent
2. Motion to look with favor to identify ways to support our libraries decision process in finding new speakers for the library community.
  - a. Role call for vote:
    - i. Chris Dortch- Aye
    - ii. Christine Henderson- Aye
    - iii. Stan Cottrell- Aye
    - iv. Jennifer Mullins- Aye
    - v. Karon Powell- Absent

➡ Board action item to review opportunities to identify procedures and policies that will allow the board to provide additional support to the library.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 were reviewed and approved via vote.

### **Friends of Collegedale Library Report:**

Sarah presented the FOCL report which highlighted:

- A new flag was purchased.
  - 7' flag with book sale written on it
  - Cost- \$223.24
- Final \$400 from Gestamp grant was used for:
  - Goodie bag prizes for escape room
  - Renewed community passes including Chattanooga Zoo and Audubon Acres
- Co-hosted a table at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas in Collegedale featured make your own smores and crafts. Approximately 4,000 people visited the table during the event.
- Annual Friends of the Library holiday book sale raised \$959.85
- Membership drive
  - Outreach via social media and email

- 38 members
  - 32 renewal and 6 new members

### **Quarterly Library Report:**

Regina presented the quarterly library report which included the following:

- Statistics at a Glance:
  - 24,939 materials in physical circulation from October to December 2023
  - 9,244 materials in electronic circulation from October to December 2023
  - 89 library programs executed from October to December 2023
  - 2,500 attendance for programs held between October to December 2023
  - 13,799 library visits occurred between October to December 2023
  - 962 computer usages from October to December 2023
- Highlights:
  - Welcomed two new staff members
    - Evelyn- STEM services
    - Pam- Library Associate for Circulation
  - Through the awarded Matching Technology Grant from the State, able to acquire two touchscreen AWE Early Literacy Stations
  - Family programs have continued to see high attendance. Some events have been moved to the community center to accommodate the high number in attendance.
  - Partnered with Civic Art League to feature various artworks in the library. The library staff have created an art walk/scavenger hunt to provide a fun way to review the artworks.
  - Library saw a 38% increase in library card registrations which was attributed to the price reduction offered by Hamilton County.
  - Plans are in progress for expansion and renovations of the library. Improvements could start as early as fall.

### **By-Laws of the Collegedale Public Library Board (Part 2):**

Kevin read aloud the by-laws from Article 4. Board did not have any further discussion or questions related to what was presented under Article 4.

### **New Business:**

- New members were presented to the city council. Both were approved.

- Schedule for next meeting discussed. Due to conferences scheduled for first week of April and the number of board members/presenters attending we have agreed to postpone April meeting until Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourned:** 7:58 pm

Next meeting April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024