

COLE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2020

PRESENT: Cathy Boggs, Greg Cotton, Deb George, Tracy Louwagie, Gwen Schimek-Tischler, Diana Corcoran, Bob Meeker.

- I. The meeting was called to order by President Deb George at 8:32 a.m. via Zoom.
- II. The May minutes were amended to include Deb's request for an update on the negotiation talks between the college and the city in the June meeting.

III. REPORTS:

A. PRESIDENT: Discussion of negotiations between Cornell and Mt. Vernon:

The sharing of Library facilities and services has been a long standing tradition. Over the years Cornell has paid the majority of these costs. However, at this point in time Cornell needs more financial support from the city for library expenses. The library is just one of many issues that Cornell and the city of Mt. Vernon are discussing. Recent negotiations between the college and the city on their many issues including the library issues bypassed the public library staff and this library board of trustees.

Until recently, the requests to the city for its financial support of the library have been moderate and predictable. But as the city has been asked to significantly increase its share of the costs to run a library, the city is looking for a memorandum to lay out a plan for what is going to be expected from them in the future.

Complicating the process of creating a plan of expectations has been the need to focus on the pandemic and the college's changing personnel. Both sides need to reaffirm their desire to continue the partnership. One plan would be to establish a per capita cost to the city, based on what comparable sized cities pay for their library services. To reach that level of financial support, a five year plan would call for a yearly, incremental increase to Mt. Vernon's budget, giving the city an idea of expected budget requests from the public library and the college.

Deb George, Cathy Boggs, Greg Cotton and Diana Corcoran will meet to explore options on how to move forward.

B. PUBLIC LIBRARIAN:

1. The Summer Reading Program is up and running. "Curb side pickup" is working well. Other programs that are serving the public include "story time to go" in a bag and Grace's "reading for books" program.
2. The library is putting together about 200 "Take and Make" activity kits a week, which are distributed in coordination with the Lunch at the Park project.
3. The Wednesday Kids Club also features a "Take and Make" activity bag.
4. Since Elementary age requests are down, the library will work towards organizing a book bundle for pick up based on age and interests requests.
5. The library will make it possible to get a library card by filling out a form on their website.

C. LIBRARIAN:

1. There has been little activity in the budget since the pandemic.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 108.
Respectfully Submitted;
Bob Meeker