Jane B. Holmes
Helena Public Library
Board Meeting

Meeting Date: January 16, 2025
Submitted by: Ginger Klein, Secretary
Attendance: P=Present A=Absent
Minutes Approved:

P	Mr. Brian Peters, Chair	P	Mr. Dan Dearing (Library Director)
P	Mrs. Karen Scott	P	Mrs. Laura Joseph (City Council Representative)
A	Dr. Michelle Wilson	P	Ms. Nancy Farris
P	Mrs. Ginger Klein	P	Ms. Tracy Arnold (Library employee)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Mr. Brian Peters. Dr. Wilson was absent from the meeting. The remaining board members were present so there was a quorum.

Mr. Peters asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from the December 5, 2024 meeting. No corrections/additions were noted. All board members unanimously voted to approve the minutes from December 5, 2024.

New Business:

1. Mr. Dearing provided the Library Report. Key points from his report included:
    a. Library employees have been working on their publicity campaign. This includes distributing information to local schools and businesses to promote the library. In addition they have been reviewing their social media platforms. The staff has been busy ordering books and looking at shelving.
    b. Mr. Dearing and Ms. Han recently attended the APLS Summer Reading Conference in Montgomery. Ms. Farris asked if there was any negative feedback regarding the theme of the program (rainbows). Mr. Dearing said that he did not hear of any.

c. Mr. Dearing said the StoryWalk project was in the planning stage. He asked Mrs. Klein to report on what she had learned. Mrs. Klein gave the background regarding the StoryWalk program as obtained from an Internet search and also the requirements in order to promote it as such. She reached out to Kim Roberts, Library Director at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster, for information regarding their recent experience with installing StoryWalks at their elementary schools. Ms. Roberts indicated that they used grant money obtained from Representatives Paschal and Bedsole to fund the project. They ordered the frames from the Barking Dog Exhibits website and paid $4,500 for twenty stations. They spent an additional $1,000 for the 4x4 timbers used as posts. Ms. Roberts indicated that the website offers aluminum posts for purchase but she did not choose that option because the elementary schools preferred to use wood. Mrs. Klein offered to reach out to Barking Dog Exhibits to get a quote for materials for twenty stations. The board discussed using future grant money to fund the project. There was discussion about installing the StoryWalk around the pond at Joe Tucker Park.

2. Mr. Dearing provided the State Aid Report.
    a. According to the State Aid Report for the first quarter of this fiscal year, $5,364.32 has been received and $1,233.66 has been spent. Expenditures to date include $715.40 in print materials, $158.26 in operations, and $360 in programming.

3. Mr. Dearing provided the Grant Review.
    a. Mr. Dearing went over the funding proposal for the $10,000 grant provided by Senator April Weaver. He suggested spending $3,500 on shelving for the back wall of the new Non-Fiction room (if needed), $1,000 for tables to replace the study carrels, $2,500 for book sets about U.S. Presidents and States (current sets are dated 2014), $2,500 for books throughout the library, and $500 for materials to process new books. No one had any objections to using the funds in this manner.
    b. Vulcan Materials provided a $1,000 grant. The funds were used to purchase books for adult patrons about business, career, training, and ideas as they retire ($488,88) and books for young patrons about getting outdoors, future careers, and the origin of food ($685).
    c. The $1,000 check from Universal Studios to honor Ladarrion Williams is being used to order books from diverse authors or that feature minority characters as the protagonist or hero. Approximately $100 remains from that grant.

d. Representative Arnold Mooney's grant of $2,500 is being used to purchase new picture books and update the Beginner Reader section of the library. Approximately $!,000 remains from the grant and will be used in February and March for additional book orders.
e. The majority of the $3,500 grant provided by Representative Kenneth Paschal was used to purchase shelving ($3,431). The remainder of the funds were used to purchase Juvenile history books.

4. By-Laws.
    a. Mr. Dearing suggested everyone review the by-laws before the next meeting to see if there are any questions or concerns. Mrs. Klein pointed out the statement in Article III which reads "No member may serve longer than four (4) consecutive terms". She was wondering if the by-laws need to be amended since Mr. Peters has already surpassed that time. Mrs. Joseph suggested tying the library's by-laws into the city's ordinance which governs city committees. Mr. Dearing asked Mrs. Joseph to forward that ordinance to the board members for review. Mr. Peters asked for the discussion of the by-laws to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Relocation of the library.
    a. Mr. Dearing informed the board that Mayor Puckett had approached him about the possibility of relocating the library to the third floor of the new city hall building and wanted him to ask the board members for their opinion. The current library is approximately 6,000 square feet and the new space would be approximately 10,000 square feet. The consensus was that it is a great location and it would be worthwhile to have the additional space which would allow for designated areas based on age (teen area, children's space, etc.) Ms. Scott voiced concerns about the cost to furnish a much larger space and was also curious about adequate parking. Mr. Peters asked Mrs. Joseph if she could find out if a library board member could be allowed to sit in on planning meetings regarding the new space and provide input.
    b. It was brought up that if the library is relocated to the new City Hall site then perhaps a StoryWalk should be installed along Hillsboro Trail in the vicinity of the new building rather than at Joe Tucker Park. It was mentioned that if the StoryWalk was at this location then perhaps US Steel could be approached to fund the project.

Old Business:

1. Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.
    a. The remaining 2025 meetings are scheduled for February 27th, May 8th, August 14th, and October 16th. All meetings will begin at 4:30pm.

2. No one from the public was present, so there were no public comments.

Mr. Peters asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mrs. Klein to adjourn and was seconded by Ms. Farris. The HPL voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:36pm.