

Harney County Library Foundation Board Minutes

Tuesday 01/21/25

Attendance:

Cheryl Hancock: Library Director
Fred Flippence
Mike Laiosa
Myndi Hemphill
Jean Sealy
Sam Cisney - Interested Community Member

Financial:

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Deposits | |
| 3.00 | Discs |
| 827.64 | Donations |
| 677.00 | OBOB |
| 60.00 | Notecards |
| 100.00 | Brick |
| 1000.00 | Patron Donation |

Business Matters:

Thank you letters for donations:

Laura
Nathan Arntz
Morgan Strang
Susan Raleigh

Discussion about Helen Hardwick's son signing on her behalf to remove her from the bank account. She is medically incapacitated. He has not returned Cheryl's phone calls.

Linda and Karen continue to review county budget audits. They have produced two graphs that challenge the current county judge and commissioners way of explaining library budget, contributions, expenses:

1. "Ration of Averages for Expenditures, Revenue, and General Fund Contributions FY 2017-2024" This graph shows the library is 5th out of 8 in expenditures for the county, as

well as the library is 2nd out of 8 for revenues for the county.

2. "Average of Personnel Services/Employee". This graph shows the library has the least amount of per employee cost, by almost half of the next lowest department (court clerk). These numbers explain employees at the library are working for the lowest wages in the county.

Mike presents his graph of numbers for tax revenue versus library expenditures over the years from 2016. The graph shows how tax revenues have increased faster than library expenditures.

- Mike plans to add foundation contributions to the graph to show how the foundation offsets library expenditures.
- Fred points out when irrigated land becomes dry land the tax revenue decrease for the county will be negligible considering the ranches are on farm deferrals.

Melinda Christensen heading Library Advocate Group. Will be changing the meeting time from February 4 to a later date. Cheryl or Melinda will contact Kelli Franke to secure a location.

- Agenda to include how to organize the advocacy group to disseminate accurate information about the library, its budget, and how it serves the greater community.

Library Open House is scheduled for February 6 from 5-7.

- Pat O'Grady and his historical objects has been invited
- The Night at the Museum is at the same time so community members can attend both and go back and forth
- Will be the Maker Space Grand Opening

February 23 The county court will be interviewing for all open positions including one library advisory board position-despite the person willing to serve four more years. Potential board members must attend to be reappointed.

Discussion about the purpose and mission of the Harney County Library Foundation Board:

-Mike reviews the history of the two funds HCLF manages: Luce and Vogel. Many years ago the Luce money was invested with the Oregon Community Foundation who pays a distribution of around 3% each year. The HCLF board was created then to manage these funds.

-The Vogel fund pays for adult materials, thus the county fund is not used for adult materials.

-The HCLF uses the distribution to supplement funding for all programs including childrens' programs (OBOB, Toddler reading time, the summer reading program), the annual block party, Hot Spots, electronics, cultural events like the speaker series in 2024, history keeping projects like cataloguing oral histories.

-The HCLF is a nonprofit allowing the library to apply for, and receive, grants. The Maker Space was completed via a grant.

-The HCLF also pays the county out of the distribution: in 2024 this was \$85,000 to supplement the general fund.

-The Harney County Library supports modern needs and self-sustenance with the Library of Things and The Seed Library.

-Cheryl states Storytime attendance sees nearly a third of Harney County children under school age, weekly.