

*Board of Trustees of the Upper Sandusky Community Library*

*Minutes*

*March 9, 2023*

The Upper Sandusky Community Library Board of Trustees convened on Thursday, March 9, at 12:00 p.m. in the Library Board Room with the following members present: Ms. Jenny Romich, Ms. Amy Aldridge-Ritchey, Ms. Dianne Grafmiller, Mr. Todd Leightey, Mr. Brian Kimmel and Ms. Ann Kemerley. Ms. Laurie Scheck was absent. Director Kathleen Whitt and Brian Hemminger of the *Daily Chief-Union* were also present.

President Jenny Romich asked for public comments. Hearing none, Ms. Romich asked if there were corrections or additions to the distributed minutes of the February meeting. Hearing none, Ms. Romich declared that the minutes stand as distributed.

Next on the agenda was a motion to ratify the payment of the bills. Ms. Romich asked if there were any questions about the bills. Hearing none, the motion was made and seconded to ratify the payment of bills; in a roll call vote, all present approved the bills.

Under old business, the board discussed the contract for the elevator project, which was drafted by the architect, Peterman Associates. There are a few changes to be made, which Ms. Whitt will give to Peterman before the contract is sent to the contractor, Davis and Newcomer. The start date should be about August 21, after the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Ms. Whitt will also talk to the architect and contractor about the problem of excessive humidity in the elevator shaft.

The Board then took the next step towards having the renewal for the current tax levy put on the November ballot. Ms. Aldridge-Ritchey introduced a Resolution Requesting the Board of Education of the Upper Sandusky Exempted Village School District to Submit to the Electors of the Library District of the Upper Sandusky Community Library the Question of a Renewal Tax Levy for Current Operating Expenses of the Upper Sandusky Community Library. Adoption requires a two-thirds majority of the Board. Ms. Grafmiller seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all present approved the motion.

Under new business, Ms. Whitt submitted a quote from Johnson Controls, Inc., to have two “panic buttons” installed at the circulation desk. Activating one of these would place a silent call to the Upper Sandusky Police in case of emergency need for law enforcement assistance. Johnson Controls monitors the library’s alarm system and does annual testing to ensure it is in working order. In a roll call vote, all present approved the quote.

The next item under consideration was renewal of the property and liability insurance. Ms. Whitt said the library has used the same plan with Ohio Plan, through Rinehart, Walters and Danner in Mansfield, for over ten years. Ohio Plan specializes in libraries and governmental organizations, and many libraries use it, although some have other plans through local agencies. The board asked Ms. Whitt to get quotes from some other insurance agencies for purposes of comparison.

The last item on the agenda was spring cleanup of the landscaping. Ms. Whitt said that she was seeking quotes from Carmar Gardens, Bookies and Jarett Thiel. Mr. Kimmel mentioned the possibility of getting volunteers to do the works, such as members of high school sports team, under the direction of their coaches. This would necessitate the library acquiring and transporting tools and materials, such as mulch (last fall’s quote from Carmar specified 8 scoops of mulch).

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In the Director's Report, Ms. Whitt reported that:

1. On Saturday, February 25, ten teams competed to assemble a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle in two hours. The winning team, Missy and Kathy Werre, finished in 1 hour, 41 minutes.
2. March adult programs include a needle felting Craft Party on March 9, a Pi Day baked pie contest on March 14, Lebanese meatballs for Taste of the World, and a repeat of last year's popular craft supply swap.
3. We are also celebrating Makers' Month in March. Items from local artists will be on display in the library until March 25. We will also have take-and-make craft kits available for children each week.
4. On March 2, The Wyandot County Health Department visited our after school program, "That Thursday Thing," to discuss healthy eating habits and show children how they can grow food themselves. The children were provided with cups of soil and seeds to plant, so they could take them home and watch them grow.
5. March's STEAMPunks will learn about basic machine building to create Rube Goldberg devices – a machine of their own invention to perform a simple task – in this case, to ring a bell.
6. On Thursday, February 16, the library closed at 6:00 for staff in-service training. Sherriff Todd Frey and several members of the Wyandot County Sherriff's Department gave a presentation on safety in the library. On March 16, Wyandot Memorial Hospital nurse and educator Mackenzie Hug will visit the library to train staff in first aid, CPR, and AED use. The library will remain open at this time.
7. In January, we installed a Holocaust Remembrance Day display thanks to research by Patti Davidson and creative work by Rachel Keirns-Moore. On Holocaust Remembrance Day (Jan. 27) news broke that a local couple was homeschooling their children in Nazi ideology. In response, Krystal Smalley came up with the idea for the library to host an educational program on the Holocaust. She looked into the national Holocaust museum in Washington, D.C., but didn't find what she was looking for there. Further research led her to the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center in Cincinnati. The Holocaust & Humanity Center offers a speakers' bureau, which features dozens of survivors and families of survivors who are available to tell their stories. Patti suggested we request Henry Fenichel professor emeritus of physics at the University of Cincinnati, because he himself is a survivor.
8. On February 27, we hosted a Zoom webinar with the options of watching Henry's virtual presentation at the library or registering to watch it from home. Nineteen people attended the program in the library and an additional 27 people remotely. They were extremely grateful to hear Henry's story and were able to ask him questions at the end of the presentation. A few days later, Krystal was asked by the Holocaust & Humanity Center's Chief Community Engagement & External Relations Officer if she would attend their March 2 board meeting via Zoom to share our story and how their resources have been able to help us. She gave them a brief timeline of events, the feelings expressed by the community over the revelations, and their reactions to Henry's presentation. She received this response the following day: "Thank you so much for joining our board meeting last night to share our mission moment. I am not exaggerating when I say that our board was blown away by the impact we were able to have together. They were so tremendously moved. Your remarks were the highlight of the whole evening...Thank you for all you are doing to be an upstander in our

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community—someone who sees a need and takes action. It’s so admirable and inspiring.”We are considering hosting another speaker from the Holocaust & Humanity Center in the fall.

9. Memorial/Honor/Donations:

In memory of:

“In honor of their grandchildren”

Gary Patterson

Connor Forrest Jaqueth

“Mrs. Barne’s Grandma”

Ann Schuster

Donor(s):

Neil & Jan Bair

Ron Gottfried

The Donna Thiel Family

Carol O’Reilly

Fred & Bette Snyder

Ernest Hoover

Lydia Passet

Ken & Linda McMillan

Terry & Kristi Sheridan

Mary Beth Chester

Kathy Larick

Sharon Lee

Rick & Nadine Leitzzy

Nancy Sauer

Steve & Vicki Underwood

Dick & Kathy Summit

Renaissance West Salon

Kenny & Johnny Amesquita

Mary Fox

Julie Thomas

Daniel & Renee Lucas

Jodi Johnson

Carolyn Rife

Gary & Bev Patterson

William & Amy Amert

Joseph & Cynthia Brocklesby

Wyandot Co Visitors Bureau

Lu Lehman

Patricia Davidson

Holocaust Survivor Program

There were no Items Not on the Agenda.

Ms. Romich asked whether there were any additional items for discussion. Hearing none, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

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President

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Secretary