

Monday, June 22, 2020

Trustees in Attendance: Ken Barthelette, Janis Hagen, Loretta Hermann, Christa Mitchell, and Maurine Myers.

Trustee(s) Absent: None.

Also present: Charli Barnes; DeeDee Brashers; Geri Godber; Sarah Hayter; Nicholas Holladay; Jon Mendelke; Joe Morgan; Tory Pegram; Dana Roberts; Scott Villarreal; Devon Gengler (from SAPP Design Architects - until 8:04 p.m.); and Harry Styron (Styron & Shilling).

The Christian County Library Board of Trustees met in a regular monthly session via Zoom on Monday, June 22, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was open to the public through a publicly posted web link. President Barthelette presided.

Any reports, exhibits, or supporting materials presented during the open portions of this meeting and referred to in these minutes may be obtained [upon request](#).

Start Time: 6:04 p.m.

Minutes of the Tuesday, June 9, 2020 Meeting

Loretta Hermann moved that the minutes of the Tuesday, June 9, 2020, meeting be approved. Janis Hagen seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

Bills

Loretta Hermann moved that the adjusted bills from May 2020 be approved. Christa Mitchell seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Loretta Hermann moved that the estimated bills for June 2020 be approved. Christa Mitchell seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Report of the Executive Director

Maurine Myers moved that the Director's Report be approved. Loretta Hermann seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Construction Budget Update

Executive Director Godber presented the most recent construction budget update and assured Trustees when they asked that any and all expenses related to the Sparta Community Branch construction delay were being tracked.

Development Minute

Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships Pegram presented the June Development Report.

Old Business

Contract for Wilson Court in Sparta

CCL's Attorney Harry Styron informed the Library Board of Trustees that, though the City of Sparta promised a final contract by Friday, June 19th, he had not yet received it.

Both Attorney Styron and Project Architect Devon Gengler explained to the Library's Board of Trustees that despite repeated attempts to negotiate a way forward, it remains unclear whether it is this final contract or some other, yet unexplained building code conflict that is the City's core reason for delaying the issuance of a building permit.

In response, after much discussion and measured consideration, Janis Hagen moved to authorize Mr. Styron to file a lawsuit for injunctive relief on behalf of the Christian County Library if the City of Sparta does not either issue a building permit or rescind the requirement of one by Friday, June 26, 2020, so that the already delayed construction of CCL's Sparta Community Branch can continue. Loretta Hermann seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Report of Online Usage from April 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Executive Director Godber presented statistics to begin to illustrate some early lessons from these first weeks of the use of the Library's digital resources during COVID-19 closings. The numbers will help Director of Communications and Community Engagement Holladay and Director of Collections Hayter a valuable opportunity to evaluate which online databases and e-collections are most needed by the community CCL serves in these unprecedented times. Website visits dropped substantially in the first month of quarantine, but only one month later increased by 71% as patrons began to check back in to engage with new virtual programming options, request materials for pick-up, and follow along as the Library prepared to reopen.

New Business

Discussion about Furniture for Sparta and Clever with Jen Fick of Sapp Design

Project Architect Devon Gengler updated Trustees on selecting and negotiating prices for furniture for the Clever and Sparta Community branches as Jen Fick was unable to attend. Final recommendations will be presented at the July 14, 2020, meeting.

Improvements to Wilson Court - Change Order Vs. Bid Packet

Attorney Styron presented an analysis of the circumstances under which competitive bidding is recommended, though not required, by law. Project Architect Gengler explained the process and potential pitfalls of taking the project out to bid or proceeding with the change order as passed.

After carefully scrutinizing and weighing the two positions, Loretta Hermann moved to uphold the [June 9, 2020, decision by the Library's Board of Trustees](#) to approve CSG's proposed Change Order Request (COR) Number 01R for improvements to Wilson Court and proceed without competitive bidding because of the nature of the situation described below. Christa Mitchell seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Before finalizing CCL's Sparta Community Branch design plans and bid packet, the project's architects and civil engineer reached out to the City of Sparta in the fall of 2019 to discuss what the City's plan was for needed improvements to the Wilson Court access road, but they received no response. The project was put out for bid on January 21, 2020, with the assumption that the City of Sparta would take care of the problem on their own, as it was a city road, not part of Library property, and the City had still not communicated anything to the contrary despite continued inquiries.

Then on March 18, 2020, Library officials and project architects were told that the Library must agree to pave Wilson Court in order for construction to proceed. In response, on Monday, March 26, 2020, as [recorded in CCL's Board of Trustees meeting minutes](#), the Library's Board of Trustees approved a motion to amend CSG's contract to include this unexpected additional expense so that Library construction [could break ground as previously scheduled on March 31st, 2020](#).

The paving of Wilson Court was an unforeseen and unexpected project expense introduced by the City of Sparta over a month after the [project's construction contract was awarded](#) and only days before groundbreaking was planned. Putting it out to bid while another contractor was already working on the site could cause many potential problems including additional delays, inconvenience for overlapping crews, inconsistent design standards, and additional cost to taxpayers. It was for these reasons that the Christian County Library Trustees unanimously agreed to uphold the previously approved Change Order Request at tonight's meeting. After careful consideration and robust debate, they decided that preserving the integrity of the project and ensuring a seamless integration of the road into the new Library build site outweighed competitive bidding considerations if they were to be responsible stewards of public dollars in this circumstance.

In order to publicly clarify the Library's commitment to a transparent process and more explicitly define and codify its guidelines for comparative and competitive purchasing practices, Trustees directed Executive Director Godber and her Administrative Staff to draft a procurement policy for consideration at a future meeting of the Library Board of Trustees.

The Naming of Areas of the Clever Community Branch after the Sims Family and Todd Hensley Janis Hagen moved to name the Meeting Room at the Clever Community Branch after Virgil and Mildred Sims in appreciation of their generous donation to seed the construction of a library in Clever. Loretta Hermann seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

President Barthelette is in contact with Todd Hensley to discuss naming the reading area or another part of the Clever Community Branch after him or his family in honor of his considerable contributions toward making the Clever Community Branch a reality as well, and will report back at a future meeting. Executive Director Godber will provide President Barthelette with architectural renderings of several areas of the Library that might be appropriate.

Both proposed naming opportunities fall within the naming rights donation threshold guidelines approved by the Board in May of 2020.

Renewal of Trustee Barthelette's Term on the Board of Trustees

Loretta Hermann moved to renew Trustee Ken Barthelette's term on the Board of Trustees. Christa Mitchell seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Nixa Arts Council - Approval of CCL's proposed role as permanent "Intellectual Freedom Advisory Member" - a non-voting Board advisory position

Christa Mitchell moved to approve CCL's proposed role as a permanent "Intellectual Freedom Advisory Member" of the Nixa Arts Council, a non-voting Board advisory position. Maurine Myers seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

Other New Business

None presented.

Adjournment

Loretta Hermann moved to adjourn. Christa Mitchell seconded. All Trustees present were in favor. The motion passed. Roll Call: Trustee Hagen: Aye; Trustee Hermann: Aye; Trustee Mitchell: Aye; Trustee Myers: Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.