



## **Carter Lake Public Library Board Meeting**

4/10/2023 4:30 pm

### **Roll Call:**

President Patricia Midkiff  
Vice-President Bonnie Freeman  
Sharon Paterson  
Delbert Settles  
Jo Chullino  
Shawn Ammon  
Library Director Shannon Putney  
Librarian I Chelsea Bollom (taking minutes)

### **Guest:**

Pat Patterson  
Jackie Wahl  
Jackie Carl  
Kelly  
Victor

### **Absent:**

Viki Hawkins

### **Disposition of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

March 2023 Patti asks if there are any questions. Sharon moves to accept the minutes.  
Minutes passed.

### **Finances**

Patti asks if the finances have been amended. Jackie Carl guarantees they will be amended next week. Pharonics was supposed to come out of CIP so this will need to be corrected. It will be changed next month.

Bonnie makes a motion to accept financials and it passes.

### **Action on Bills**

The only bills will be coming out of CIP. Shannon got a desktop exclusively for work and money was put toward the library's new app. Patti asks for questions and there are none. Patti makes a motion to accept the bill. Motion is passed.

### **Progress and Service Report of the Director**

Shannon starts with the monthly method numbers have increased this month. There were over 1000 patrons that came through due to the door count. Shannon explains how library staff subtracts 30 from the number each day to account for community and library staff. Patti asks for questions and any other comments. Shannon shares that the library is in the process of creating summer reading promotions such as a video, and Meggie will be going to the school. The school will be coming to the library on April 21st for a book tasting. This will take place all day and allow the children a chance to explore the library and see our collection. The library will be partnering with the Nebraska Writers Collective and the Joselyn



Museum. We are also partnering with Purposeful Pups so that kids can read to a dog. Shawn motions to accept the director's report. Motion passed. Shannon makes a motion to do the end-of-the-meeting stuff now before the big vote.

## **The unfinished business**

Construction has finally ended.

Library policies are still being updated. The completed policies are being shared with board members. The policies will be discussed during May's meeting.

## **New Business**

The library director mans the position of the community center director if the city offers it to her. Shannon would spend 60% of her time at the library and 40% of her time helping at the community center. There are 6 locations with some being a similar size and two being larger than our current library. More libraries are becoming a combination of community centers and libraries since it is cheaper for city funding. The infrastructure for libraries was really bad thus leading to this change. Bonnie asks if the library is getting more foot traffic now that the community center is open. Shannon agrees seeing how there has been an increase in new faces and patrons. Shawn asks how many employees would be working on the community center and the library side. Shannon says it's up to the city. Shawn asks if she would be doing the employee evaluations which Shannon will. The board will have to decide what percentage Shannon will be working for either side. Of course, a higher percentage would be on the library since Shannon is hired by the Board. Shannon would be mainly covering admin, making partnerships, working on grants, and handling supply requests. She wouldn't be working on any programs. Jo asks how the sharing would work since Shannon was hired as the library director. How will the board now share Shannon with the community center better the library? Shannon explains how this will create more partnerships between the library and the community center to create a better product for the community as a whole. Pat Patterson introduces himself as a member of the city council but not a representative. He states that the council will be voting on Monday on offering the position to Shannon. He states that this is not a full-time assignment but a buffer to help the city write a problem. Shannon has already been helping be the interim but it was never official. The board will influence the council's decision.

Shawn points out that the point of this meeting is to make this official so there won't be a liability if Shannon is helping out. There is no one running the community center at this time.

Jackie Carl points out that the city council will determine how long Shannon works as an interim.

Shannon points out that she can't do this because the board needs to vote on it. The board has to agree to let her do this.

Jackie Carl mentions that Shannon is the only one they feel comfortable helping the city get through this issue now that Sandy has left. The city needs someone to administer the building since she has experience with the community center since day one. They want to continue to have Shannon help run the community center since it was a smooth transition.

Patti asks why the board wasn't informed of this once it happened and not after. She insists that Shannon should inform the board about these issues since the board is supposed to run what happens in the library. Pat says they needed to get something done quickly. Patti insists that someone should have texted or called her when it happened. Pat reminds her that the city owns the library, not the board.

Jackie Carl says that they had to do something right away and that this is an unusual situation the city hadn't fit. Bonnie points out that more communication is needed and that the board doesn't advise they make decisions and need to be in the loop more.



Bonnie makes a motion to allow Shannon to do the interim period. Shawn seconds Bonnie's motion to let Shannon do this for 90 days. three said yes three said no. There is a discussion between the board members and guests about the issue from both sides. A second meeting will be held.

## **New Budget**

No new budget was presented.

## **Board Member Training:**

The library has now included meeting minutes on the library website. Shannon encourages board members to explore the new website and add the app to their phones. This will be the training for the board members tonight. The meeting ended without training due to high tensions.

## **Question:**

Why can't the city just hire someone? Why can't Nick or Dan do it? Why is Shannon needed? Does Shannon want to be the community center director and leave her position as the library director? Why don't other board members care about the community despite being community members? Why is Jo struggling with this concept that Shannon wouldn't be leaving the library?

## **Public Comments (See New Business for a play-by-play)**

Kelly, a guest stated, that she was in support of Shannon doing a trial period. She shared her personal experience that she and her family had with the new library staff and the changes she is seeing in the community. She also stated she invited the State Library Board to join them for the next board meeting.

Jackie Wahl stated that making Shannon interim is unnecessary and that Dan and Nick can just do it. She also claims that HOAs have the same rules as Library Boards.

There was some arguing between Jackie Wahl and Kelly. Kelly also asked the library board questions as well.

Victor called for the vote to be tabled for another meeting.

Jackie Carl asks that the library board help the city out while they figure out the crisis.

Pat asks that the board let the city borrow Shannon's skills and ensure them it wouldn't be a permanent position and that it wasn't even a guarantee when the council goes to vote.

## **Adjourned**

Patti motions for the meeting to adjourn. It passes.