

JOHN TRIGG ESTER LIBRARY

Board of Directors Meeting

February 11, 2021

Members Present: Syrilyn Tong (ST), Gary Pohl, Ritchie Musick, Kristen Haney, Mina Doerner, Mindy Gallagher, Sharon Lockwood
Missing: Sarah Moisan, Carrie Correia

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 7:09 by President Gary Pohl.

Agenda:

The agenda was moved for approval by ST, seconded by Kristen and passed.

Minutes:

The minutes of the January Board meeting were presented, and minor corrections made to them. ST moved to approve them as corrected and Kristen seconded the motion. They were approved.

President's Report:

As we get covid vaccinations we may look forward to reopening the library in person, possibly by spring. Ritchie updated the post office bulletin board showing winter hours by appointment.

Facilities:

The snow blower has been repaired. Gary is ready to plow the driveway after the latest snowfall.

Grants:

The Good Sense grant will be applied for when we are eligible. Grant status availability emails are monitored regularly for grant opportunities. Our username and profile have been submitted for the Alaska Legislature CAPSIS grant. The House now has elected a speaker so can take up responsibilities which includes this.

Financial:

Recent bills paid were for GVEA and GCI. Revenue came from one membership. (See financial report)

GEB Report:

The seed library has received seeds ordered from Snake River Seed Company along with brochures. They asked us for public thanks to them on our social media platforms. The \$150 appropriation from last meeting has only recently been utilized. Seed companies are overwhelmed and have been closing off orders. Usually, we would take public input for seed varieties, but this leaves little time for such so Mo and Kristen simply ordered. Two companies have shipped so far.

A seed Stewardship program is being organized. Participants must be a JTEL member, pledge to plant a seed library packet, and return seeds obtained from the harvest along with other informational input. This project is separate from Seedy Saturday and will require an educational program for participants.

Kristen is working on a Library Seed Catalog for our website hopefully to be completed by February 15th. Seed packages will be made up and their availability announced. Their pickup date will be set, probably on Seedy Saturday.

Monique Musick and Kristen met with Mel Durrett, manager of IAB, the campus greenhouse. There is space available there for starting seeds to be planted at our library and park. Land may be available for planting at other sites.

A microgrant is available to AK and HI with an application due on Monday. This requires a 1-, 2-, or 3-year commitment and provides up to \$10,000 per year. It needs a 10% cost match which can usually be partly in the form of labor. The purpose of this grant is to address food security in the State.

Collections:

Mindy and cohorts have continued with cataloging and added 210 entries to the online catalog. There are currently 5914 books entered in the catalog with 5545 shelved in the Clausen Cabin. Kaye Sisson and Karen Holder are helping her to sort books still in the white building. They are currently working on a young readers program.

Children's Program:

Sharon reported on a YouTube channel we could upload material to if JTEL has a Google nonprofit account. We do not at present but do have a Google drive. This would provide a place for sharing all kinds of material.

Historian:

Historical material could be loaded as described above on a YouTube site. It was suggested that biographical material about historical Ester folks could be put onto the JTEL website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Clausen Cabin still needs a new stove which will be applied for with grants. The community meeting being planned by ECA which would include JTEL is still not on the agenda because of Covid. It needs to be in person with representatives from all aspects of life in and around Ester.

ST presented the final draft of the financial policy and all were asked to read it and be ready to approve it next month.

The volunteer policy was finalized by ST and Ritchie and has also been distributed. That should be read and ready for review/approval at the next meeting.

The historian position is still open. Photos of old timers were taken to Amy Cameron, but no word has been sent back.

News articles in a blog format have been kept up on our website by Gary and ST.

NEW BUSINESS

The Pick-Click-Give application is due by March 31, along with a \$250 application fee. Gary is working on this.

The domain renewal is due. This is a hosted website. We could have separate emails for all of us on this site (i.e.. gary@esterlibrary.org) if we wished. Discussion of the website will be put under new business for the next meeting.

Grants in Progress include the CAPSIS Grant awaiting legislative action, and the GVEA Good Sense awaiting application. Mina has researched grants to replace the cabin's monitor stove with a Toyo. A smaller model provides 44,000 btu for an area of 730 square feet, a larger one is also available. For items over \$1000 we need to get three quotes. She has been quoted \$1650 for the smaller and \$2275 for the larger. A flue extension will add approximately \$80-90. When we get the third quote, she will draw up the grant.

ST mentioned that it is better to use the credit card for simple purchases because we get cash back on purchases. It is in ST's possession.

Next meeting will be on March 18th, the third Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 via Zoom.

Ritchie moved to adjourn. ST seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully submitted,

Ritchie Musick, Secretary