

JOHN TRIGG ESTER LIBRARY  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
July 16, 2023

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Mindy Gallagher at 7:02 pm in the Clausen Cabin.

**Board Members Present**

Mindy Gallagher, Kristin Haney, Kathy Nava, Ritchie Musick, Syrilyn Tong, Gary Pohl. This constituted a quorum. Mel Durrett had resigned via email earlier in the day.

**Approval of Agenda**

Add under New Business: Resignation of Mel Durrett. Approved by acclamation.

**Approval of Minutes of June Meeting**

Approved by acclamation of those present, as amended to delete references to violin and silent auction items from Superheroes event, and add that Ritchie Musick will address silent auction items.

**President's Combined Report**

Mindy asked if anyone could not attend a Board meeting, to let her and Gary know in advance. Mindy also wants to discuss potential alternate Board members. Language on membership forms was discussed as new ones needed to be printed prior to the Noel Wien Library Literacy Market. Donations received from Gary Graves with some good Alaskan and other items. Someone left a large box of books at the Gazebo, which Mindy straightened up. Leslie Kitchen (retired Wood River Librarian) brought in children's books, which Mindy took.

**Other Reports:**

Finance: ST presented the financials; JTEL is doing well and in the black. She also noted that Mindy, Kristin and Gary need to go sign the resolution for check signing at Mt. McKinley Bank or else only ST can sign checks.

Facilities: Gary reported that yard maintenance has been on-going. Great job by Katia cleaning up around Kid's playhouse! Compost Bin: Gary and Kristin have scoped out compost bin location. Need to put down some gravel first to level the area and create drainage beneath wood components. Kathy had donated a magnetic screen door, Gary to address installation. ST noted that the blue 5 gallon water jugs in the kitchen were no longer the kitchen. They had been moved to the storeroom. Agreed by all to use them as a reservoir and use the clear smaller water container who someone added to drain board. ST agreed to investigate the overall printer situation at Clausen, including the need for wireless printing. Printers and supplies had also been left by Katia and Karen.

Grants: Gary reported that Thelma Gower has offered to help with grants writing and applications. She is moving from Homer to Fairbanks. She will contact us later this season. Gary still needs to obtain proposals from qualified vendors to install an heat recovery ventilation system at Clausen. Deirdre Helfferich had forwarded information on potential EPA energy grants.

GEB: Three first place, third place and honorable from Fairbanks Garden Club "Flower Show", part of Golden Days. GEB bulletin board also one first place for the "Educational Board" at the same event!! Kristin has been watering plants and asking folks to take some home. Also has some donations: \$100 from Karl Nordeen, and \$5 from Glenna Gannon. Garlic is doing well, will probably pull at the end of the month. Needs to get supplies to build more garden beds. Can we investigate using the Passive Haus site for the mini-grant planting beds? Yes. There is a pile of topsoil on site, and things need to be cleared off. Grant funds can be used for supplies.

Newsletter: Kathy requested items for the August newsletter.

Children/Family Programs: Hiking group has been on-going, but only adults so far. Kathy doesn't have any immediate plans to restart children's crafts as adults don't have time to dedicate. She will be doing crafts on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Back to school is August 17<sup>th</sup>. Potential ice cream social?

Best-selling Fiction Collection: Ritchie noted it is not working well, as few books are being checked out. Lack of traffic is part of the issue. Mindy and Sine would like to do an event about banned books.

## **Old Business**

Programs and Operating Hours: Mindy said that writers' programs are bringing 4-6 folks on a regular basis, knitting is doing well. Gary has FSAF this coming Wednesday. T-W-Th and Saturday PM. Kathy will cover Monday nights 4-7 pm and have programs on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Noel Wien Library Literacy Market: July 25 from 3 to 6. Need two tables and pop-up tent, banner and informational handouts. Mindy and Kathy to staff the event. Kids' games will be needed: Bananagrams, et al, that Kristin has. No math games! Membership form was discussed and language to be revised and reference to BlogSpot deleted. ST agreed to recreate the envelope form and letter size and get 50 copies of each printed.

## **New Business**

Ester Fest: Board discussion of JTEL having a presence at Ester Fest and what it would be. JTEL could have a booth and sell surplus stuff for low prices

ECA Ester Community Planning: An ECA committee is meeting on August 20th for planning the the overall September 17 community meeting. Community hall and library combined issue (ECA + JTEL)? Per Gary, the floor plan is flexible for a variety of uses/rentals/events. Tabled for now.

JTEL Business Plan: Mindy led the discussion. Nothing really done in the past is available to build upon. Will need to start from scratch. Who can work on this? Mindy has investigated examples, and it would need to be very simple (4-5 pages). Kathy offered to help Mindy.

Li-Berry Pie Throwdown and Music Festival: What is the best timeframe? Review of other events already scheduled. Saturday, September 23 seems to be the best consensus. Ritchie to check with Hillary at Golden Eagle.

Resignation of Mel Durrett: Book club discontinued. Need to recruit a new Board member. Advertise in the newsletter.

Date of Next Board Meeting: Sunday, August 20, 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Gary indicated that he would be unable to attend as he'll be out of state.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at approximately 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Recorded by Gary H. Pohl, Secretary