

Submitted by Carol Lichtenberg - Alta Library Board Secretary

Alta Library Board Minutes from October 10, 2024 Meeting

Call to Order by Board President, Bruce Hinkeldey at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Director (by phone) - Gigi Nelson, Board - Anne Iehl, Willa Casstevens, Colleen Carlson-Konop, Colleen Schwanz, Anna Garcia, Bruce Hinkeldey, Carol Lichtenberg

Visitors: Pam Henderson - Alta City Council, Lorinda Peterson - Citizen member of the Library Steering Committee, and Riley Miller

The October Agenda was approved following a motion by Colleen Schwanz and seconded by Anna Garcia.

The Library Relocation Discussion began with a recap of the 10-2-24 City Council meeting at which there were presentations from FEH Design and Beck Engineering. They reviewed the site of the former grocery store (Gully's Storage Building) and the empty lot on Main Street. Materials from both firms were available for all present to review. At this meeting, the council voted on the purchase agreement that they have with Ron Gullickson and on a vote of 3-2, they declined the purchase of Gully's Storage Building based on structural concerns (roof, basement floor, outside repairs, and unknowns). The discussion then went to the location of a new library which could be at the Main Street and 2nd Street site, or the city park. No final decision was made, but it was reported that at a later council meeting, Beck Engineering was retained to study and make recommendations to the council on both of these sites.

In our discussion of the new library progress/location, the library board voted on a motion by Colleen Carlson-Konop, seconded by Willa Castevens the following: "The Alta Library Board is formally requesting that the City Council, at their November meeting, make a firm decision on two specific locations for a new library and then schedule a town hall meeting for open discussion." This motion was unanimously approved. Bruce will forward this formal request to the City Council.

The discussion then turned to an interim location for the library. Carol Lichtenberg reported that after talking with the Alta-Aurelia school board and superintendent, we will not be able to extend our time in the current location and we will not be able to use the old shop area in the old high school gym and fitness area. They will be starting remodeling of the library area as soon as possible after our final date of June 30, 2024 for the purpose of administrative offices and will be paring down electricity and plumbing to a bare minimum at the old high school gym building.

Gigi was asked to pull out her draft of a letter to area churches requesting the possibility of using any extra space anyone might have available on a short term basis. It was felt that these letters should be sent to the Alta churches as soon as possible.

Pam Henderson had checked into the portable classrooms that are in Storm Lake, and due to the age of those it was not recommended to pursue that; however, it may be an option to lease new or newer ones, depending on the weight bearing capability.

The old lumber yard at the north end of main street (across Hwy 7) was brought up by the city council and Bruce is trying to reach the owner to walk through there; however he was told that this building currently has broken pipes.

The City Council did renew the agreement with the VFW for the south portion of the Community Center, but that might be a temporary possibility if the VFW would agree to store their items in the back (north end) of the Community Center.

It was noted that there had been some negative remarks about a new library on a Facebook post. The post has been removed. This brought up the idea to host monthly coffee conversations to educate the public on the reasons for needing to leave the school and the steps that have already been taken to research the best possible location and solution. It was further stated that the public library is the last uncensored resource that is protected in our country, and that the internet and artificial intelligence (AI) is not always fact. We felt that the local citizens need to be educated on the usage and programs of the library also.

An email that the board received from Tyler Aube regarding library location and the benefit to revitalizing downtown was noted. Consensus of the persons present is that whatever location is decided on will have pros and cons. Upon a final decision by the council, the library board and director will get behind this and help work towards making the new library a quality place for our town and patrons.

The September 12, 2024 board meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Colleen Schwanz and seconded by Anne lehl.

Past Statistical reports and City Revenue & Expense reports were approved. Discussion on these reports were as follows: Computer upgrades are going to be needed soon. We might want to share with the public through a "Library Fun Facts" type of post about the number of programs and monthly library patrons use and try to make the community better aware of the range and usage that our library has. Gigi noted that the revenue and expense report shows we are on track for the year with our budget.

After review, a motion was made by Carol Lichtenberg, seconded by Anna Garcia and passed to approve the October bills.

Old Business:

1. The Library Logo project is still being developed. It was suggested to ask for ideas from all age groups, research the need for copyright, permissions, etc., possibly will need signed agreements drawn up as part of the logo request. An idea was to reveal a winner at the ribbon cutting of the new library.
2. Active Shooter and CPR training (by Dorie Peterson) has been completed now with six persons certified (Amy Mikos is an RN and plans to pursue her own certification. The part time high school age employees were not certified, since they will not be working on their own in the library. Gigi will check if there is a policy on file for Safety Training, CPR and Fire Drills. If so, this policy should be reviewed and updated with a policy for any new employees, and yearly review of safety procedures.
3. Gigi reported that the State Annual Survey is due 10/31/24 and she will focus on this after returning from the Iowa Library Association conference.

New Business:

1. Gigi provided her monthly director's report which covered the past month's activities, programs, a grant possibility of \$10,000 - \$20,000 from the Rural and Small Library Association that Justin Y is looking into, Biblionix records continue to be updated, report from the Learning Circuit on Artificial Intelligence workshop, and the state run WebMail program will be ending in May 2025 at which time the library will need to be set up and paying for this service through the local Alta-Tec.
2. Dorie Perterson applied for a grant for an AED machine for the library and it was approved.
3. Internet changes (email as noted above)
4. Director's Training has been delayed due to the State Library being moved from the Department of Education to the Department of Administration. There will no longer be "Iowa Learns" but it will be run through "Workday Learning", this internet site is not set up yet.

The motion to adjourn was made by Carol Lichtenberg and seconded by Willa Casstevens and approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next regular monthly Library Board meeting will be Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
