Thornton Public Library Board of Trustees
August 12, 2019
Minutes

President Barney Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Also present were Amber Brown, Judy Johnson, Jason Lester, Fern Miner, Director Christine Sterle, Treasurer Barbara Darnell, and board assistant Kathy Bowen.

Fern moved to approve the agenda with a second by Jason. Vote 5-0

Fern moved to approve the July Secretary’s report with additional claims presented by Barbara Darnell. Amber seconded. Vote 5-0

Barbara presented the Monthly Financial Report. Receipts into the operating fund for July, 2019 were $27,533.32. Operating fund disbursements totaled $41,412.33. July’s ending cash balance was $784,748.84 with investments of $273,956.66. Total Cash/Investments were $1,058,705.50.

Jason moved to approve the Register of Claims with a second by Fern. Vote 5-0

With no public present the board proceeded to Reports.

Thorntown Heritage Museum – There were no July programs.

The trees lining the fencerow at the back of the museum were overgrown and encroaching on the neighbors’ property. McCoy’s Tree Service removed the trees. It has been decided, and Kelly Frank (horticulturist) has agreed, that a butterfly garden, along with other pollinators, will be established where the trees were removed. It will take some time before results are seen. Planting is expected to start this fall. In the meantime, Karen Niemeyer has donated mulch to make the area of the tree removal more attractive.

The Colored Cemetery Dedication and the Ice Cream Social will take place on Saturday, August 10. Last year 103 attended the Ice Cream Social and 6 gallons of ice cream were purchased for the event. However, on Karen’s advice, Sandy plans on picking up 10 gallons of ice cream since the event has been included on the Boy Scout calendar for Sugar Creek District. *Update – there were 53 at the Cemetery Dedication and about 125 at the Ice Cream Social. The Lebanon Reporter sent a reporter and nice write-ups were published regarding both events.

Edward Moffitt has recently donated a collection of military items belonging to Robert Moffitt, which will be on display at the museum during the Ice Cream Social.

Mark Dunwoody still has some of the upstairs window trim to paint and one more coat of sealer to put on the back porch that will not be finished until after the Ice Cream Social.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning – Seven focus groups (board, staff, community open house, teens, educators (including homeschool), business & community leaders) will be scheduled for late Sept/early Oct. Staff are helping brainstorm invitees for different focus groups. The Board focus group session is scheduled for September 9 meeting following the public hearing on 2020 budgets. Staff and board are NOT to attend any other focus group session so as not to influence (directly or indirectly) input. A survey for public will be available during festival weekend. After completion of the focus groups, we will wait 2-4 weeks and have the
Strategic Planning Retreat, which is a 6-hour day with 14-24 participants, some staff and board participation, as well as community members.

2020 Budgets – The 2020 proposed budget has been submitted to Gateway and Public Hearing and Adoption dates are advertised (Sept 9 & Oct 14).

New Business:  None

Director’s Report:

Summer Reading 2019 is over! We had good participation – 283 youth, 31 teens, and 23 adults. It only took one extra week to complete the sticker mosaic.

The new microfilm reader has arrived; software has been installed and four staff have been trained on the machine. It is in the archives room.

Christine provided updates about insurance and pest control.

The hotspots began circulating a few weeks ago and are very popular.

We switched to a different plumber after receiving little response from our previous one. The fountain is working – better – no longer a power washer/splash pad. The plumber will continue to make adjustments as he learns.

The window washers are coming on August 25, weather permitting.

ESG will replace the security camera above the round window (fountain) on Thursday morning. New IP cameras are about $150 each now. We will see how the new one works and discuss upgrading others.

Christine may have surgery on her foot sometime in the fall, so other staff may have to stand in for her during some strategic planning meetings.

Amber motioned to adjourn the August board meeting with a second by Judy at 7:15 p.m. Vote 5-0.

Christine Sterle, Secretary Pro tem