

HMML Minutes 8/18/26

Meeting Called to Order: 7:01

In Attendance:

Ben Brown Library Director

Michelle Wheeler Trustee Secretary

Libby Persons Trustee Vice Chair

Betsy McCombs Trustee Treasurer

Absent:

John Clark Trustee Chair

Joan Harlow Member at Large

Secretary's report

Betsy makes a motion to approve the minutes from 7/21/26, Libby seconds, all are in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Betsy reached out to Lisa about the dates for budgets, she said soon but didn't have specific dates. Betsy asked Ben to look into the electric bill, it was very high. Ben believes it was air conditioner use. Ben did call the electric company to inquire and is still looking into it. It is 300khr from last July and also the air conditioners were run a lot in the community room for events. Initially a mini split was looked into when the expansion was happening, it was pushed off at that point but is maybe something to look into in the near future. The library was designated as a cooling center for the town, if we have that designation could we get some money to fund mini splits? We are okay budget wise but if we keep trending this way we will be going over budget.

We are running low in office supplies and media parting because of our Overdrive subscription which is just over \$4000, we currently have \$3812.80 left. We have kept the media budget the same for a few years to protect the salary increases but the media costs are going up. Kanopy is also getting used more which makes it more per month.

There's also kitchen flooring to consider cost wise. Ben measured the kitchen, 117 square feet total. If we use similar peel and stick tiles that should cost about \$200 but it can wait until next year.

There is the sprinkler inspection to do in October and we also need the lights and extinguishers inspected this year too.

Director's report

July was a busy month, digital use, computer use and attendance is all up. There were many events for summer reading, the last event the Kona Ice truck. We don't have a final turn in numbers for summer reading because it continues into August. The passes were used a lot in July and we had 30 new patrons sign up for library cards.

Eva wants to pull back and work only a couple weekends a month. Summer hours, closed Sundays, run through the end of August. Ben is thinking that two weekends a month we will open both Saturdays and Sundays because we don't have the staffing for more than that. Ben is looking for new subs and/or new hires to pick up some hours.

Library landscaping

Lowe's donated 140 bags of mulch to the library to spruce up the gardens this fall. Several people showed up to help off load the mulch. Sheila Comuso was essential in acquiring the donation and many people showed up to help offload it.

Motion to adjourn at 7:26 by Betsy, seconded by Libby, unanimously approved.

Michelle Wheeler Recording Secretary