



Board of Trustees
March 19, 2020 4 pm
MINUTES
Walker Community Room

Trustees Present: J. Parry, R. Qualls, M. Rice, B. Park, H. Garner, and S. Overbey
Trustees Absent: B. Bagwell
Staff: D. Johnson, W. Fitzgibbon, S. Davis, L. Yandell, S. Palmer, S. Du Preez, R. Duarte
Press: S. Ryburn
Others: M. Sutherland

- I. Call to order: J. Parry called the meeting to order at 4 pm.
- II. New Business

- A. Library response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19):

D. Johnson noted the library is following the lead of the Fayetteville Public School system in its response to COVID-19. Staff are relieved to be sent home. Efforts are being made to publicize all the library's virtual resources. I-cards are being made available to any citizen of Arkansas of any age. However, those without access to a computer won't be able to take advantage of these resources. It might be possible to supply "little free libraries" with books from the Friends' storage room. However, doing so may incur some liability for the library should the virus be transmitted. Library staff are still answering the phone to assist patrons with questions.

It is important for the library to help the vulnerable and isolated during this time. It would be helpful to have internet access throughout the plaza and parking deck. There is limited Wi-Fi on the plaza, but not in the parking deck. It may be possible to extend the Wi-Fi to the edge of the plaza. It may also be possible to let patrons self-check a laptop - though it would require staff presence to prevent theft. Staff are reluctant to take on this risk.

M. Rice moved to provide and publicize as many virtual resources as possible, keep the library closed until at least April 15, 2020, ask staff to log their at home work hours, and take advantage of government programs to help staff financially. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Discussion of modifying the website to make online options more obvious and FPL's leadership role in the state of Arkansas. The speed of change and lack of information make decisions difficult. Remaining closed to buy time makes sense. A priority for the region is to increase broadband access as folks without it are hugely disadvantaged. FPL will remain closed until at least April 30, 2020. Staff is negotiating with OverDrive about more e-titles and fewer restrictions. Staff will also explore creating video updates for the website that highlight the virtual resources that are available even though the library is closed.

R. Qualls moved to adjourn; B. Park seconded. All voted AYE. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adjournment

Bret Park, Secretary

4/20/20
Date