

Viola Public Library District

1701 17th St. Viola, IL 61486

Regular Meeting

March 2, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: Sandy Cook, President Rich Lawson, Vice President (arrived late)

Linda Engels, Secretary Mindi Schultz, Treasurer

Annette Essary Barb Harrison

Lill Batson, Director

Absent: Mike DeLoose

Public Comment: Members of the public are invited to speak to the Board of Trustees. Please identify yourself when called upon. Comments are to be limited to three (3) minutes or less. In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, actions may not be taken on items not already on the agenda, but action may be deferred to a later Board meeting at the discretion of the Board.

Treasurer's Report:

Mindi Schultz presented the treasurer's report. Annette Essary moved to accept the report as presented with Linda Engels seconding. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary's report was reviewed. Annette Essary made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Mindi Schultz seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report:

Lill reported that the library numbers are still good and that with the better weather more patrons are coming in to the library. She also reported that 5 of the new computers are ready for patron use. She still has the 3 staff computers to connect.

Summer reading program is in the works. The theme for this year is "Read off the Beaten Path." Jeff will be in charge of crafts for the kids. Chris Whan, Carol Whan's son, contacted Lill about a possible donation for summer reading, including hummingbird feeders. He will research the feeders and get back to Lill on what he finds. The library may do a kick-off party at the park that will include the feeders, if we have them then, and possibly a scavenger hunt. The library may put together some take-home kits that include a book, craft and snack or treat. We are looking at "blind-date with a book" for older kids and adults. The crafts will be done in June with an ending party in July.

OLD BUSINESS:

Zimmerman Collection

Annette Essary brought up the possibility of reaching out to an investigative reporter regarding Mr. Zimmerman since we haven't received any money from him. She found other customer complaints on BuildZoom.com where he has

failed to do work after being paid. Lill contacted Ann Pieper about the judgment and received a reply. Basically, Mr. Zimmerman has no assets for the courts to seize, works for cash, goes bankrupt and changes employment often. Ms. Pieper did not offer much hope in the ability of the library to collect from Mr. Zimmerman.

After some discussion, it was decided to reach out to WQAD and KWQC to see if their investigative reporters would be interested in the story. Annette Essary moved to table the topic until the April meeting pending more information. Rich Lawson seconded. Motion passed.

New BUSINESS:

Aledo Model train Group

Rich Barber and Gary Cortwright attended the meeting to discuss renting the former library building. The group started in 2011 and work with HOH model scale trains. They need a new location to set up their trains and hold their open houses. They are hoping with a ground floor building to increase their membership.

They asked if the Board would be willing to accept \$200/month rent instead of \$300/month. They would charge dues for members and pass on the extra money from that to the library. They also agree to pay all utilities and carry insurance. They would build free-standing benchwork for the trains and attach nothing to the walls.

The board discussed various options. Annette Essary moved to accept \$200/month rent, \$300 damage/cleaning deposit that could be paid in increments, full utilities and insurance. Mindi Schultz seconded. Motion passed. Lill will call Mr. Barber to tell him the decision.

Rich Lawson made a motion to close the meeting with Annette Essary seconding. Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm. Next regular meeting is April 6, 2022 at 6pm.