**Custer County Library Board**

**Minutes**

**March 17, 2021 Custer County Library**

*The Custer County Library Board of Trustees met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17th at the Custer County Library. Persons in attendance were Library Director Doris Ann Mertz and Trustees Marcy Swanda, Renée Starr, and Seyward Rittberger. Marcy chaired the meeting and called it to order at 1:05 p.m.*

**AGENDA CHANGES/CORRECTIONS**

**MINUTES**

* **January 20th Board Minutes***: Renée made a motion to approve the January 20th board minutes. Seyward seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**TREASURER REPORT**:

* **GENERAL CHECKING: $13,486.95 as of 03/09/21**
* **COUNTY SPREADSHEET: Balance of $214,611.89 with 17.82% expended**

Note: *This number is inaccurate because employee benefits have been double-charged during January and February. This problem will be corrected by the April meeting*

**LIBRARIAN REPORT:**

* Book Sale Extravaganza –
  + March 1st from 4-7:30 p.m.
  + 87 customers & 2 new memberships
* Dr. Seuss Story-times on Facebook on February 26th and March 5th
* Read Across America
  + Zoom Story-time with Kindergartners on March 1st & 3rd with 17 participants
  + In-person Story-time at YMCA on March 4th with 20 participants
* Jump Start Summer Reading Program Training – March 11th with 17 Zoom participants
* Tax Preparation
  + No Google Meets sessions at this point, probably due to complexity of process
  + No hardcopy tax forms and instructions received yet

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS***:*

* **Facilities Improvement**

*The back parking lot is still closed due to dangerous ice conditions, which cannot be remedied until the spring thaw. More baffled sound panels have been installed in the addition, but sound management still needs improvement.*

* **COVID-19 Discussion –** *Doris Ann has been looking into criteria on which to base a phasing-in of in-person programming. With the help of the DOH, she now knows how to access the county’s vaccination numbers. She is considering tying the re-opening to a “Minimal Spread” classification on the DOH website. We are currently at “Moderate Spread.” She has been unsuccessful in determining what criteria are used to determine that classification.*
* **SD Public Library Survey** – *Doris Ann presented the Annual Report to the County Commission on March 10th. In addition to the report, she provided some highlights of the statistics in a Cover Letter and the results of the Return on Investment Calculation. She presented a short slide show that she had previously prepared for Legislative Day. The report was well received. Commission Chair Jim Lintz thanked the library for its service to the community during a challenging year. The Survey Certificate has been signed and submitted to the State Library.*

**NEW BUSINESS***:*

* **Dr. Seuss Books –** *Dr. Seuss Enterprises announced on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss’s birthday, that they would no longer publish 6 titles: “And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street,” “If I Ran the Zoo,” “McElligot’s Pool,” “On Beyond Zebra,” “Scrambled Eggs Super!” and “The Cat’s Quizzer.” The library has copies of all of the titles except “The Cat’s Quizzer.” Soon after the announcement, the sales of those books skyrocketed, and the prices on used book sale sites went up astronomically. At the moment, the library has pulled these titles from the shelves, not to censor them, but to avoid theft. Libraries across the state have had to do the same. Several librarians in South Dakota have reported suspicious phone calls from a man claiming to be from Aberdeen who is trying to help his nephew get a hold of these books for a project. He has made the mistake of calling libraries that are nowhere near Aberdeen. For the time being, libraries across the state have made their use in-house only to decrease the opportunity for theft. When the current attention dies down, we may put them back out on the shelves. If the cost of replacing the books remains astronomical, we can either keep them in-house only or put them on the shelves to be used until they go missing.*
* **Library Strategic Plan –** *Doris Ann reviewed some of the Community Profile data she had gathered since the last meeting. She still has some data she is struggling to find. She will present her progress at future board meetings. She asked the trustees to think about the “Weaknesses” and “Opportunities” sections of the Library SWOT Analysis because those sections provide the ideas for the library’s goals and objectives.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* Mertz Vacation – March 26th – April 5th
* CCLF Meeting on March 18th at 1 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** *April 21st at 1 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.*

**

Doris Ann Mertz

Secretary/Treasurer