

Alaska Center for the Book

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Minutes

This was the ACB's first virtual board meeting, held via Zoom in response to the closure of Loussac Library, our standard meeting location and the prohibition on meetings of more than 10 people due to the threat of the corona virus.

ATTENDEES: Page Brannon, Toby Widdicombe, Christina Gheen, Camille Oliver, Lila Vogt, Carol Sturgulewski, Mark Weber, Trish Jenkins, Sarah Preskitt, and Sara Juday.

MINUTES: No minutes from the February meeting were available. Page will contact Zeb and circulate as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lila sent reports electronically. These are posted in the ACB/Financials folder in DropBox. Donations have been slow and most of the income so far is for Reading Rendezvous.

READING RENDEZVOUS: During the meeting, Sarah Preskitt received the news from Elizabeth Nicolai, the Loussac librarian in charge of Reading Rendezvous, that this year's event will be cancelled. It would have been the 20th year for the event. In anticipation of a possible cancellation, coordinator Robin Brooks has been contacting donors to ask if they might consider their current donation as forward funding for next year. Mark will notify entertainers. There was discussion about using options such as Facebook Live to kick-off the summer reading program. Someone suggested filling neighborhood "little libraries" with kids books for that week.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST: Judges are still making decisions. Hope to have all decisions in by the first week of April. While funding for this year's cash prizes is solid, next year we may need to look elsewhere due to budget cuts at the university. Carol suggested we might reach out to the Atwood Foundation.

CLIA: Carol reported that the press release calling for nominations is ready to go. Deadline is May 1. She will send the board members the press release and asked that we all forward/share with our contacts. Mark will post to the website. In the past, winners were celebrated in July during the Northern Renaissance Arts & Sciences Series, part of the UAA Creative Writing MFA low residency program. If this program is cancelled this summer, we could hold a Zoom presentation or maybe just honor two years of winners at the next session in 2021. As Carol said, there is time to consider alternatives.

IDEA EXCHANGE/BOOK FEST: Idea Exchange in DC has been postponed from May to August, to be held in conjunction with the National Book Fest, at least that is the current plan. Carol had volunteered to go, but now has a conflict that weekend with a Friends of the Library Event. Christina had also expressed interest in going, but considering the current environment, she is not comfortable committing to travel to DC, and she is not alone. We will hold off on a decision about attending for now.

ALASKA BOOK WEEK: Trish was ready to call a meeting of the organizing committee in April, but may need to organize a phone/video meeting. She is coordinating and will not need an honorarium, and with the committee feels there is plenty of time to plan. People discussed how this year we might need to explore more virtual events using Zoom, Facebook Live, and the Statewide Library OWL network. The good news is that the Alaska Native Bookfair is scheduled for October 10, which will fall during Alaska Book Week (October 4-10).

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS STATE LITERACY AWARD: Page is sending a letter congratulating Best Beginnings on their selection for this award. After they have been notified, Mark will post a press release on the website. Page has been notified by the Library of Congress that it will be 1-3 weeks before we receive the award etc.

Before we all disengaged from our virtual meeting some folks talked about books they are reading, a nice way to end the meeting.

The plan is to continue these virtual meetings for the next few months as we are all forced to maintain physical distances from one another (much better than calling it social distancing...thanks Page!)