**Deputy Director’s Report**

**BCSLD Board Meeting, 4.19.22**

* **February and March Statistics**: I complied and posted the February and March statistical reports to the shared drive. Please let me know if you have any questions.
* **Traveling Exhibitions**: Nancy notified us about a freestanding traveling exhibition from The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum that deals with human trafficking, called *Not Alone*. On Friday February 4, I signed a venue agreement contract with TSHM for the library to exhibit *Not Alone* for five weeks from April 16, 2023 through May 20, 2023.
* **“Beginning of Spring” Reading Program**: On Wednesday, February 16, I launched a new spring reading program for patrons of all ages via ReaderZone. I wrote a short article that appeared in the February 16 issue of the Blanco County News announcing the program, and I also announced it on Facebook. The program lasted a little over six weeks and ended on 4/1. There were four age groups in the program: Pre-K, Child, Teen, and Adult. Pre-K and Child participants tracked reading in minutes. Teen and Adult readers tracked reading in pages. Readers unlock digital badge awards in the program depending on the number of minutes or pages they have read. Readers are able to enter books they are reading in a book bank and move books to a finished category as well and rate and review books. These titles show up in their reading progress as they are finished, along with the daily entries and badges unlocked. We had 28 people register across all programs. Twenty-four of these remained active throughout the program. Pre-K and Child readers read a total of 8,914 minutes, while Teen and Adult readers read a total of 29,783 pages. Prizes are awarded for participation at the end of the program. The library buys Pre-K and Child participants book(s) approximately $20.00 in value. Adult participants can choose one of three prizes: (1) book(s) for the library’s collection approximately $20.00 in value with a nameplate in the book(s) in honor of their participation, (2) book(s) for themselves approximately $20.00 in value, or (3) a gift card to Josie’s Kitchen for $20.00. So far, I have heard back from all but two participants, a mother and daughter, about claiming prizes.
* **Book Displays**: For March there were displays for Women’s History Month and Irish-American Heritage Month. For April there are displays for National Poetry Month and Scottish-American Heritage Month.
* **Deputy Director’s Additional Collection Development:**  For fiscal year 2021-2022, the Board approved a budget of $6,000 for the Deputy Director to purchase books for the Library’s collection. I have added 240 new books and spent $4,669.27.
* **Children’s Classics Project:** Last fall the Board approved a budget of $1,000 to buy new copies of children’s classic books that have aged. On March 11, library volunteer Becky Macaluso resigned from working the front desk, but I approached her about helping us identify children’s classics that need to be replaced and/or purchased anew. She agreed to help with this effort and has done a lot of work identifying classics, which ones we have and don’t, and which we might want to acquire if not replacing. Becky has been communicating with me and Kee about this project, and I plan to complete all ordering by the end of May so that all books are catalogued by the end of the fiscal year. I recommend assessing where we stand with this effort after the $1,000 are spent and consider creating an additional budget for this effort next fiscal year as needed.
* **Hotspots**: After reaching out again to our former T-Mobile contact, I was given the contact information for a new person representing our area. I emailed him on February 23, and he called me within a few minutes of receiving my email, apologized for the situation, and was very responsive. I emailed the Board with the quote for the new devices and service costs on February 25. The Board approved the additional plans on March 1 by email. We received the four new hotspots and SIM cards on March 8. Crystal then took over the activation of the SIM cards and the cataloging of the hotspots. Two of the four new SIM cards were activated, and we began circulating two of the hotspots on 3/16 and 3/18. However, the other two SIM cards needed to be resupplied to us before we could activate the other two hotspots. As far as I know, we received an envelope that likely contains the two replacement SIM cards on March 16, but the hotspots have not been activated. Billing begins for the new hotspots once they are activated. We should include in the April minutes that the Board voted to approve the coverage of four additional hotspots in our service plan on March 1. T-Mobile did not charge us for the four new hotspots.