

PONTIAC PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MAY 6, 2021

Board Members in Attendance - Chair Hatchett, Vice Chair Earl, Treasurer Maxey, Secretary Rutherford, Trustee Richardson, Trustee DuVall

East Oakland Division XP League Presentation - Surab Deb

An E sports league that offers several video games that kids can play in a structured environment divided into four eight week seasons per year. The goal is to work with kids from 8-15 in structured teams with coaching. XP League creates a chance for kids learn teamwork and work with coaches certified by the Positive Coaching Alliance to learn the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, strategy and critical thinking.

Seasons are divided into tryouts in the pre-season culminating with top players advancing to national tournaments. Any child interested in joining during try-out is accepted and put into teams.

Parents and Fans can view live-streamed video with play-by-play commentary. Every child gets a team jersey with their gamer tag to wear during each match.

XP League is asking for: 1000 sq ft, up to 3 hours on Saturdays, up to 2 hours on a weekday and a 3 month contract.

Program fee for Pontiac is \$349 per child which includes jersey, game time and coaching. XP League provides all esports scheduling, coaching, hardware, and a safe facility. Children have a chance to earn scholarships by being on teams. Players can also become certified to be coaches and help others with gameplay, scheduling and how to disconnect themselves from the game after its over.

People involved also have the option to become a caster, essentially a broadcast arts role that teach kids about technology, camera work and other skills aimed toward broadcasting careers.

Alan Bishop is partnering with XP League using his intimate knowledge with the community and would like to train more young men and women toward getting these growing scholarships. Oakland University is a large supporter of this program and would be interested in hosting some of these tournaments.

XP representative Surab Deb has a detailed background in banking, community work and fundraising and feels bringing the children into the library for this will keep them excited to come for other programs.

XP Rep Harry G. opened Oakland athletics and has a background of flight camps, indoor tennis and multiple programs to get kids out and motivated for programs like this. He feels it will really help introverted teens break out of their shell and develop.

XP League will be doing its own marketing but would love the Library to do micro advertising as well as partnering with Oakland University

Secretary Rutherford voiced concerns on the cost of the program vs the average income of a Pontiac Family and Surab Deb stated it would be the League's plan to partner with individuals in the community as well as corporate backing to sponsor individual players or teams if needed. Trustee DuVall brought up the idea of reaching out to the Pal program in regards to funding or sponsoring players.

Jermaine Branner has several sponsors agreeing to sponsor several players

Secretary Rutherford stated that their answers were satisfactory.

Treasurer Maxey wanted to know where the initial funding for the program comes from and the XP reps stated that the funding come from the private sector and that it is a nation wide program. The government have no funds involved in the XP League. Treasurer Maxey also questions if they understood the "emotional culture" of the children that they would be dealing with in the community. He stated that he wanted to see the program in writing because he has seen other presentations that seem the same and claimed legitimacy, so he would like to see everything in writing first. Alan Bishop asked for a list of Treasurer Maxey's concerns so they could be addressed individually, Treasurer Maxey said no, that his concerns should not be the only ones looked at.

Chair Hatchett stated she would approach Treasurer Maxey and try to get a list of his concerns for Alan Bishop.

Trustee Richardson questioned how it would work if there was not enough funding for children to go to national champions. The reps explained that they could reach out to corporate sponsors in their extensive network to make sure if a kid make it to the finals, they would find a way to cover it.

Secretary Rutherford made a motion that we continue this as an action item at the next board meeting, support by Trustee Richardson.

XP League would be coming to the Library to tour this coming Tuesday at noon with Vice Chair Earl to lead a tour.

Vice Chair Earl asked about set up time - It takes roughly one hour to set up laptops and power supplies / set ups before a game day.

Secretary Rutherford made a motion to continue the conversation with the XP League and put this on the agenda for the Regular May meeting as an action item. Trustee Richardson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Chair Hatchett - Yes, Vice Chair Earl - Yes, Treasurer Maxey- Yes, Trustee Richardson - Yes, Trustee DuVall - Yes

Motion Passes

Presentation and update on Pavilion Project

Stacy Bishop of Community Cuisine LLC presented a document detailing the funds requested from the library to set up the community kitchen and Farmer's Market at the library.

Priority 1 - \$117,700.44

Estimate for hood system - 45k or more

It was recently discovered that air conditioning is required and that an exterminator must also be called. Outlets for food trucks need to be changed

The Presentation had a breakdown of all prices for security and kitchen interior.

One representative from the business stated that they see a lot of the priority one items can actually be moved to priority two. However electrical and plumbing must be brought up to code.

Trustee Richardson asked about people providing needed items in-kind or cheaper suppliers/contractors. They stated that they have not on some items, but just found out about the air conditioning this past Friday. Trustee Richardson also inquired on not doing all of the décor items at the beginning due to rising estimates.

Trustee DuVall is looking for funding from government sources and believes we should make it look as appropriate as possible for the community. She also questioned bathroom usage which is mentioned in the estimated cost.

Secretary Rutherford voiced her issues with spending 117K when the library did not buy a book mobile citing cost. She felt the community will have a problem spending over 100K on a program that does not increase the Pontiac Literacy rate for the community.

There was discussion on if 25k can be carried over to fiscal period two.

Motion to table discussion until next Board meeting so the subcommittee can discuss increased funds, support by Trustee DuVall

Roll call: Chair Hatchett –Yes, Vice Chair Earl – Yes, Treasurer Maxey – Yes, Trustee DuVall –Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Secretary Rutherford – Abstain

Motion Passes

Jermaine Branner stated that he has spoken to other organizers who have funded / started similar programs and they have told him the true cost is normally ten times the amount the Community Cuisine LLC is asking.

Vice Chair Earl asked for Clarification on Board sub-committee members. The committee consists of Vice Chair Earl, Trustee Richardson and Trustee DuVall

Secretary Rutherford wanted a list of what is necessary, not extra bells and whistles because she wants the cost to be justified to her and to the general public.

Trustee Maxey agreed with Secretary Rutherford and believes the Board should step out in more of a leadership role.

Secretary Rutherford agreed that \$100k would be a sufficient budget for the pavilion program to draw from.

Trustee DuVall would like to have a sub-committee meeting as early as possible

Board Comments

Trustee Richardson – Thought that the farmers market funds would be separate from the pavilion funds but is for moving forward with both programs

Vice Chair Earl – Voiced concerns that the expenditures would cut the operating budget of the library and would be interested in knowing how much capital others are bringing to the project.

Treasurer Maxey – Commented on how proud he was of the Board for taking these actions. Complimented Trustee Richardson for wanting to make sure all details are in place.

Chair Hatchett – Glad that the Library Board is looking forward with the project and that they may need to look at the upcoming year's budget in regards to funding of the program but would still like a book mobile.

Secretary Rutherford – Wants to make sure all due diligence is completed for a program spending over \$100k so nobody can say it's not by the books.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee DuVall, support by Trustee Richardson

Roll Call: Chair Hatchett – Yes, Vice chair Earl – Yes, Trustee DuVall – Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Treasurer Maxey – Yes, Secretary Rutherford – Yes

Motion Passes

Meeting Adjourned