



Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting July 13th, 2023

Trustees Present: Betsy Kremser, Michele Merritt, Arvid Maki, Ron Johnson, Taylor Baert, Maureen Rogers

Trustees Absent: none

Also present: Library Director Shelby Friendshuh, Carole Nienaber

President Merritt **called the meeting to order** at 5:36 p.m.

Shelby introduced new board member Maureen Rogers. She will be one of the village representatives.

Motion to approve the agenda by Betsy. Seconded by Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the **Minutes for the June regular meeting** by Michele. Seconded by Maureen. Carried unanimously.

Citizens' Comments – Shelby received a lot of positive feedback on the June programs.

Director's report – June was a busy month. The Book Bike had its inaugural journey – to Evergreen Senior Living. It was well-received by the 10 to 15 residents who stopped by to check out books. Future forays will be made to Oakey Park and the River Street Farmers Market. The Book Bike will keep a pretty loose schedule for the remainder of the summer as staff figure out what works well and what doesn't. Shelby has been preparing for the LTC (Libraries Transforming Communities) Grant community conversations. The focus will be on seniors, but any community member can participate. June circulation numbers surpassed the 5000-item mark for the first time since before the pandemic. The new patron total of 46 was also very good. The book bar codes finally came in and the backlog of new items was able to be processed. There have been lots of donations of used books and DVDs. Some of these items are added to our collection – approximately \$2000 worth of materials added in the first half of 2023 alone. More than 300 participants attended the Summer Learning Programs.

Monthly financials – Expenses are sitting at 53% of budget for the first half of 2023, so we're right where we should be. Betsy made a motion to approve the monthly financial results, seconded by Arvid. Carried unanimously.

Audit and Approved Bills - Motion to pay the bills by Arvid, seconded by Betsy. Carried unanimously.

Book Bike Policy: Shelby presented the first draft of the Book Bike Policy. It will probably change as we get more experience with the bike, but all agreed that it was a good start. There was



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a question about liability insurance – we’re probably covered under the umbrella policy of the village. The last sentence of the policy will be reworded to something like “The Library Director welcomes input from the community on Book Bike stops and attendance at special events.”

Motion by Arvid, second by Maureen to approve the Book Bike Policy, with an amendment to the last sentence. Carried unanimously.

Book Fund Certificates of Deposit – The library has 4 CDs at MidwestOne worth \$22,000. These CDs make up the Bessie Green Perpetual Fund. Interest earned from these is not earmarked for any specific use. Three of the CDs are maturing in the next month, and the largest one (\$10,000) matures in 2025. The best rate of interest that MidwestOne can offer is 2%. Betsy suggested contacting the St Croix Valley Foundation to see if they have a better rate of return. She is not sure if they work with government entities. She will give the SCVF contact information to Shelby, and Shelby will get in touch with them. Motion by Betsy, second by Michele to investigate other options for investing the Bessie Green funds. Carried unanimously.

Final Trustee Position Opening – Gail Hanson has volunteered to serve on the library board. Shelby will ask Deb Rose to have her appointed by the village board.

Board Training – John Thompson, IFLS Library System Director, will join us at our August board meeting.

Next board meeting will be August 17th at 5:30 pm. The September meeting will be moved from the 14th to the 21st.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Ron Johnson
Library Board Secretary