



Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting January 11th, 2024

Trustees Present: Michele Merritt, Betsy Kremser, Arvid Maki, Ron Johnson, Maureen Rogers, Gail Hanson

Trustees Absent: Taylor Baert

Also present: Director Anne Miller, Sherry Hanson

President Michele Merritt **called the meeting to order** at 5:31 p.m.

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

Motion to approve the **Minutes for the December regular meeting** by Arvid. Seconded by Maureen. Carried unanimously.

Citizens' Comments – The December book sale was the busiest since the Wheels & Wings sale in September. Two new volunteers helped with the sale. The Friends have bought a media tower to house Easy Reader books and have donated \$2000 for new books. The group has offered to provide free library cards for Minnesota residents again this year at a cost of \$24 per person.

Director's Report – Anne, along with all the library staff, thanked the library board members for their support during the past year, a year filled with many changes. Circulation numbers and numbers of patrons have been trending upward. The collection grew by more than 2200 items in 2023. The week between Christmas and New Years was extremely busy with kids being out of school. Anne will soon be starting her classes on library administration. She will also be working on a Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op Operation Round Up grant. Anne will set up a Zoom meeting with a representative of the St Croix Valley Foundation to help the board decide whether to invest the Bessie Greene funds with them or not.

Monthly Financials – There is a \$2737.61 surplus that will be carried over into 2024. 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.

Microfilm Reader & Printer Donation Money Transfer – Anne had a phone meeting with Mike Addy and Colleen Swanson of the Osceola Historical Society (OHS) to get an update on the status of the Osceola Sun digitizing project which is being done by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The scanning is more than half done. Brenna Weston (Director of the Polk County History Museum) and others will be meeting to decide where digitized local newspapers will be hosted. Arvid Maki's son suggested that Google Drive could be a rudimentary solution. Since



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the status of the project is up in the air right now, we will continue holding off on transferring to the OHS the \$1000 donated by an individual to the library, originally for a microfilm reader/printer, and recently redirected to the OHS digitizing effort, until we have a clearer idea of where all this is headed.

Library Garage Sale – It would probably be a good idea to have a policy dealing with the disposal of surplus/unused library items if the Friends of the Library conducts a garage sale of such items this summer. Anne will create a disposal policy that is based on one used by the Waukesha Public Library and will present it at the next board meeting for approval.

Library Policy Review Schedule – The board is a little behind on its review of some library policy documents. Anne suggested reviewing a couple of policies per meeting to get caught up. The board agrees with this idea.

2023 End of Year Report – An impressive list of achievements in 2023 included 67,942 total circulations (an increase of more than 5000 circulations from 2022), 400 new patrons, 2283 new items, and 2674 participants in 112 programs for all ages.

2024 Library Goals – Anne presented a list of goals for 2024. One higher priority goal is to reinvigorate the Teen Advisory Board. Perhaps the high school student who is hired for the new library page position could help in this effort.

Job Posting for Library Assistant Position – This position is for 16 hours per week (three 4 ½ hour shifts plus weekend hours over the course of the month). The board approved this position in November. A bachelor's degree is preferred. Anne will post the position by the end of January.

Anne will email the board members information on an upcoming library trustee workshop (in Somerset) about book challenges. She'll also send information on a proposed bill in the Wisconsin legislature that would require librarians to alert parents about what kids under 16 are checking out.

Next board meeting will be February 8 at 5:30 pm.

President Merritt declared the meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Ron Johnson, Library Board Secretary