

Neenah Public Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2017

Call to Order

With Fieldhack in the chair, the Neenah Public Library Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Carpenter Conference Room. Members present: Randy Fieldhack (president), Jan Sarnecki (vice president), Carol Codner (chair, Finance & Personnel Committee), Tom Widener, Merry Whipple, Tami Erickson (Aldermanic representative), and Cassidy Kemppainen (teen representative). Members excused: Patricia Rickman, Lisa Hemes and Tim Kachur (Neenah Joint School District Representative).

Also present, Gretchen Raab, director, Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm, assistant director, Nancy Britten, circulation services manager, and Katrina Wulff, youth services manager.

Public questions & comments

None.

Minutes

On motion of Whipple, seconded by Codner, the Board approved the minutes of the Library Board meeting of February 15, 2017.

Statistical Report

Raab reported a correction: youth checked out 337 kits and adults 20 kits. Beginning with the April statistics, the Youth, Teen, and Adult circulation will be reported separately.

Bills for Consideration

On motion of Sarnecki, seconded by Whipple, the Board unanimously approved payment of the March bills.

Director's Report

Library Legislative Day was productive. Staff and Widener met with Senator Roger Roth and Representative Mike Rohrkaste. Public Information Officer training was informative and useful.

Department Reports

Circulation Services: Britten received positive feedback from staff about the annual all-staff in-service held in February.

Youth Services: Wulff reported on a community helper birthday party hosted at the library. The library has added play & learn totes with new themes, i.e., coding, diversity. This year's spring break programming will be held at 1:00 p.m. daily, March 27 - March 31. The library is beginning discussions with the school district about becoming a summer lunch distribution site for children.

Adult & Technical Services: Hardina-Wilhelm overheard a patron exclaim our lucky day collection is better than Redbox. Adult Services Librarian, Mike Thomas, hosted a successful after-hours genealogy lock-in. Adult Services is distributing program surveys to gauge a program's success and to discover how patrons are hearing about our programs.

Annual Report

On motion of Whipple, seconded by Sarnecki, the Board unanimously approved the annual report and accepted the statement Winnefox Library System "did provide effective leadership and adequately meet the needs of the library." The signed copy of the annual report along will be sent to the State.

Request for reconsideration

Board members received a letter from a patron requesting the reconsideration of the film, ABCs of Death. The director detailed the history of the complaint, how the film came to be purchased, the film's reviews, and the checkout/circulation of the films. The Board reviewed the current Materials Selection policy. In particular, the Board discussed several tenets of the policy: The library's role in the free exchange of ideas; the library's responsiveness to community requests; the responsibility to purchase a variety of materials, including those that are considered unorthodox; and that materials shall not be removed from the collection simply because they are controversial. The Board further discussed the differences between censorship of materials and the merits of fair warning. It was noted that although the film was not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America, it was rated by the British Board of Film Classification, by Canadian provincial classification boards, and by the Australian Classification. The Board concluded that staff had acted appropriately in following policy and procedure. After careful consideration, on motion of Irish, seconded by Sarnecki, the Board unanimously approved to retain the films, ABCs of Death and ABCs of Death 2 and to affix an R-rated label to copies of the DVDs.

Displays policy amendment

The discussion of the amendment to the policy was postponed to a future meeting.

Survey Update

As of March 14, over 700 online library surveys have been completed. Paper copies are also being collected.

Community postings

Whipple discussed the role the library has in providing community information, e.g., minutes and agendas from local organizations and governments. As many organizations are now paperless, the information can be difficult for individuals without computer access to obtain. Staff will post a sign on the community bulletin board directing patrons to ask at the second floor Reference desk for assistance in locating government and school board meeting minutes and agendas.

Kemppainen and Erickson left the meeting at 5:33 pm.

WALS update

Widener provided an update to the Winnefox Board of Trustees meetings regarding the WALS fees.

Whipple left the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

4th Annual Proces Poetry Prize

Irish provided a reminder of this year's Proces Poetry Prize. Students may submit poems for consideration to their school or at the library through April. Winners will be notified in June and the awards ceremony will take place in September.

Next regularly scheduled meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion of Sarnecki, seconded by Codner, the board adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Raab