

Neenah Public Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2021

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 Shattuck Community Room. Members present: Randy Fieldhack (president), Tami Erickson (Aldermanic representative), Lisa Hemes, Beth Irish, Michael Koller, Pat Rickman, Jenn McMahon (Neenah Joint School District Representative), George Scherck, Carol Codner, and Aneka Blenker (teen representative).

Member excused: Nikki Winiecki and Lukas Schmerse (teen representative).

Present also, Gretchen Raab, director, Nancy Baird, circulation services manager, and Katrina Wulff, youth services manager.

Minutes

On motion of Erickson, seconded by Codner, the Board approved the minutes of the Library Board meeting of May 19, 2021.

Statistical report

Circulation continues to increase. Raab pointed out that the statistical comparisons between 2020 and 2021 will look unusual for a while because of COVID-related changes to services and operations over the past 18 months.

Bills for consideration

On motion of Hemes, seconded by Codner, the Board unanimously approved payment of the June bills.

Director's Report

Director Raab reported that the roof work has been completed; the new coating is reflective and could lower cooling costs. Carpeting replacement for the Shattuck Room and elevator are tentatively scheduled for early September. Raab shared the details of the Friends upcoming book sale, which will be held in the Shattuck Community Room throughout August. Winnebago County is planning to hold weekly vaccination clinics at the library.

Department reports

Circulation Services Department

Baird clarified a question on the circulation comparison with other Winnefox libraries for 2021. She also announced that the Library's collection agency service (Unique Management) has resumed. The new criteria: Referral will occur when a minimum of \$50 in lost materials has accrued; the revised referral fee (\$10) will be added to those patron accounts.

Youth Services Department

Wulff reported that the video created to promote the Summer Library Experience for teachers to show in their classrooms (in lieu of normal outreach visits) had 553 views, although the number of children viewing the video is likely significantly higher. Wulff noted that registration for the Summer Reading Challenge via Beanstack is already double from last June. Wulff reported that story times have begun. She demonstrated a Play Literacy kit that can be checked out (in-house). After the children are done playing with the kit, staff will clean the items and the kit will be made available for another family.

Hefti Scholarships

Fieldhack reported that 15 students, plus 1 alternate, have been selected to receive scholarships this year. \$2,499.40 was awarded to each student.

Yarn Bombing

Neenah Arts Council approved a fiber art installation at the library. The artwork, by crochet artist Gwen Buttke McGannon, has been installed on a large tree near the circle drive.

Library Operations

Raab reported that as of June 1, weekday open hours have been extended by 1 hour, occupancy limits and time limits have been eliminated, and tables and chairs are now widely available, as are most meeting rooms. Services and operations are running smoothly.

Future Agenda Items

Rickman requested a refresher on Open Meeting Laws.

Raab will present a proposal to the Board re: the possibility of eliminating overdue fines.

Next regularly scheduled meeting

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Yaz Community Room (first floor).

Adjournment

On motion of Codner, seconded by Hemes, the Library Board adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Board members were then invited to tour the new meeting rooms.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baird