

Library Board Minutes - June 23, 2015

Call to Order: President Brissett called the meeting of the Duluth Library Board to order at 4:30 on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the West Duluth Branch Library. On a motion by Katz, seconded by Ramsland, the agenda was approved.

Members Present: Sandy Scheiber, Dan D’Allaird, Virginia Katz, Matt Rosendahl, Jane Brissett, Megan Oswald, Betty Ramsland, Sister Edith Bogue

Also Present: Carla Powers

Absent: Frank Jewell

Minutes: On a motion by D’Allaird, seconded by Scheiber, the library board minutes of the regular meeting of May 25, 2015, were approved.

Reports:

Duluth Library Foundation

Written report was reviewed. The finale for “Drop and Give Me 20” at the mall will be this Saturday. Mayor Ness will be one of the featured speakers. Patra Sevastiades is now a full time employee, which reflects the progress the board has made. (She will be speaking to the Downtown Rotary this week.) The Foundation will also be represented at the Greater Downtown Council’s Sidewalk Days event.

Arrowhead Library System

Zinio may or may not be discontinued. Usage is low and users say it is hard to use and they were flooded with spam emails. There was confusion about whether DPL would continue to contribute towards the subscription. ALS is looking at other options such as Flipster. Another initiative of the ALS is to find an ebook platform for grades K-12 that schools would be able to use. Katz and Bogue expressed interest in replacing Brissett on the ALS board. St. Louis County makes the appointment.

One Book, One Community

Written recap of the project was reviewed. Powers reported that a more accurate number for attendance at the event on April 28 was 32 people. Having a local author made a difference as the author was able to be involved with the planning. There may be a new coordinator next year as there were challenges with organization when this year’s coordinator stepped in. Next year’s format might also change given possible connections with UMD (Shakespeare’s folio) or a campus read of Wild. Katz commented that Fitgers was not an ideal venue as the sound system was faulty and the temperature was too hot. She also said that having the author read from the book didn’t make it a worthwhile experience.

Manager’s Report

Written report was reviewed. Rosendahl’s prediction of the best ever Lake Superior Libraries Symposium was correct. Book sale surpassed last year’s earnings. Attendance was down somewhat for the first few days, which might indicate that more people waited until Thursday’s bag sale. People have been using the fine forgiveness coupons provided by the Foundation in honor of the library’s 125th

anniversary. The library is now circulating puzzles, but a concern was raised that donated puzzles may overwhelm the library.

Old Business:

Library recognition awards

The small group will meet again after gathering feedback from the three separate bodies in early July.

New Business:

Facility planning public process

Mayor Ness has decided to not bring a facility project to a vote this fall. Ness and Jim Filby Williams put together questions for the public to start gathering input. Options for meetings were discussed, whether it should be several small groups discussing all of the questions, or one meeting on each question. Bogue brought up the issue that the public should be informed of all possibilities – including adding meeting spaces or a cafe. She suggested adding a feature to the website that highlights comparable cities' libraries to generate ideas. Board members may be called upon to facilitate meetings, or perhaps Whitney Crettol can be hired for this purpose. Other suggestions included the citizen steering committee, the Greater Downtown Council, and/or the Chamber of Commerce. In addition to meetings, other methods for gathering input would be drop boxes at the library, website surveys/emails, etc. The mayor has put out the questions publicly by distributing them to the news outlets. A press conference might be good to get the issue back into the public view and announce the feedback process. Having a flyer/infographic that highlights the model libraries in other comparable cities would help spark imagination. Discussion concluded with board members agreeing that they would be willing to host meetings but would prefer to have someone else facilitate if possible. The board advised a minimum of four meetings – one east, one west, and two in the downtown/hillside area.

President Farewell

Thanks to Jane to all of her efforts for the library board and best wishes as she moves to the big city!

Communications/Correspondence:

New clippings folder was passed around.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.