**Alvah N. Belding Memorial Library**

**Library Board Minutes**

**August 28, 2023**

**Board Members Present:** Tom Cameron, Ron Gunderson, Sherri Hughes, Jan Lamborne, Kathy Lehman,

**Board Members Absent**: none

**Director:** Britney Dillon

**City Council Liaison**: Jeannine Leary

**Guests:** Betty J, Carol Dawe

1. **Call at Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order by Tom.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Jan to approve the agenda and supported by Sherri. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes**: Motion made by Sherri to approve the June 26, 2023 Library Board Minutes as amended to include the reason Britney was absent at the June meeting was due to her attendance at the ALA Conference in Chicago. Motion was supported by Ron. Motion carried.
4. **Public Comment:**  None
5. **Library Reports:** Director’s, Youth Services, Circulation, Donations, and Financial Reports were all reviewed. These reports were received for filing.

**Comments on Reports:**

* 1. **Director:** Cusack’s Masonry has not begun work. Flooring in the lower level and under the computer bank is still being considered. The library unexpectedly closed due to a low battery sensor on the fire doors making it impossible to remain open. Plans are to replace the other sensor battery when they return to do the yearly checkup. Britney will put us on a 3 year cycle to replace the batteries in hopes of avoiding this occurring in the future. Roof drains will be cleaned this fall.
     1. Britney told the Board about some of the interesting things she and the other attendees learned at the ALA Conference in Chicago. She attended and conference regarding library freedom of information and had good conversations about how to engage patrons and our community. The Library of Congress is archiving personal stories of soldiers. Britney is planning to incorporate this into her teaching lessons at MCC. Belding has many veterans and she has sent for more information about the Library of Congress Program. The staff that attended appreciated being able to make connections with others that do the same work as them. Big take away quote, “Keep in mind that our collections need to keep all our patrons reading interests in mind.”
  2. **Youth Services**: The summer reading program was well received. Destination story time was a hit with patrons.
  3. **Adult Programs**: Programs continue to be well attended. The adult summer reading program is had around 143 patrons participating. The Friends of the Library sponsored an outdoor concert that was well attended. Michelle will be helping the Coordinator of Hope Network come up with art therapy suggestions for the residents of Brentwood 1. Senior Bingo is gaining participants as new exciting for engagement.
  4. **Circulation:** This information is useful to monitor patron usage. A new category suggestion was to look at the number of podcast viewers monthly.
  5. **Month Financial Reports**:

**Donations:** A memorial was received that specified it to be used for building maintenance. This money was used for the new boilers.

1. **Notice of Paid bills**: A motion was made by Ron to approve the payment of bills from June and July 2023 and supported by Jan. Motion carried.
2. **Communication and Correspondence:** The Gardeneers are coordinating a coloring contest with the library. The Gardeneers will take care of the details and provide prizes. Social media updates and the newspapers articles are appreciated by the Board.
3. **Unfinished Business**:
   1. Strategic Planning- Trustees are asked to prepare to discuss this at the September meeting.
      1. What is the library doing well?
      2. What should the library continue to do?
      3. What should the library do to keep moving forward?
4. **New Business: none**

1. **Public Comment:**
   1. Council Member, Jeannine H. updated the board on a number of projects ahead for the City improvements and answered questions posed by the Trustees. Gus Macker basketball will celebrate in a big way their 50th year in 2024.
   2. Carol Dawe, Director of Lakeland Cooperative with over 20 years experience, presented the Board with several handouts regarding Trustees duties and the Open Meetings Act. Carol spoke at length regarding the Freedom of Information and Censorship as well as Intellectual Freedoms and the important role libraries have to ensure the legal aspects are followed. She suggested that we research the following website: My Right to Read.
2. **Trustee Comments:**
   1. **Thomas C**.- Supported the comments from other trustees.
   2. **Ron G.-** Asked Britney how the BHS book controversy concluded. She replied that BHS will change to an “Opt Out” policy in the future. Britney added that she is happy that communication is going well between the superintendent and herself. Ron asked how the geo cache is going that is inside the library. Britney stated that at least 2 people have been in to search.
   3. **Sherri H.-** Thanked Carol for attending our meeting and sharing the information.
   4. **Jan L**.-. Glad that the staff was able to attend ALA Conference.
   5. **Kathy L.-** Happy to see the lights are working where they had been out. Britney stated that the spotlight out front was totally replaced. Kathy also pointed out the dirtiness of the tables used at the meeting and asked that it be brought to the staff attention.

**12: Motion to adjourn** at 7:15pm by Sherri and supported by Tom to adjuourn. Motion carried.