

Fort Madison Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of the regular meeting held January 15, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room at the Fort Madison Public Library.

Present: Ron Welder, Brenda Graham, Anne Heitz, Fred Winke and Mary Kay Moline (by phone)

Staff Present: Sarah Clendineng (Library Director)

Excused Absences: Sharone Groene, Candice Smrt, Phil Hecht, Chad Cangas.

Meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 5:35.

Motion to amend the agenda, moving the action items approval of the minutes from November and December, the Approval of the Bills and New Business to the top of the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as amended - Heitz; 2nd - Heitz. Carried Unanimously

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 20 meeting - Graham; 2nd - Heitz. Carried Unanimously.

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 18 meeting – Heitz; 2nd – Winke.

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve the January 2015 bills – Graham; 2nd – Winke. Carried Unanimously.

New Business

United Way Partner Agreement: The library board needs to approve the partner agreement with United Way for the coming year. Motion to approve the United Way Partner Agreement – Heitz; 2nd – Graham. Carried Unanimously.

Review Library Board By-Laws: The by-laws were amended to leave out the time of the meeting. Motion to approve the amended by-laws – Heitz; 2nd – Winke. Carried Unanimously.

Mary Kay Moline left the meeting at this time. Due to loss of quorum, no further action was taken. The following items were discussed.

Corresponding Secretary: There was no correspondence.

Director's Report: In addition to the attached report. Just this afternoon, about 10 pictures from Cattermole that had been stored in the basement were hung in the genealogy room and by the study rooms. Also the heating situation seems to be better. Tom Schultz did look into replacement options and just for the central part it would be about \$14,000.

Merging all non-fiction: The director would like to get the spanish books into a better place. One thought, to make room for them, would be to combine the J/YA non-fiction with the adult non-fiction. This would free up shelf space to move the biographies toward the back of the library and move the spanish books and oversize non-fiction where the biographies would be. We would still have the Easy Non-fiction by the picture books, but this would take us down from 3 to 2 non-fiction sections. One advantage I see is making it easier for kids to move up a level in certain topics, especially crafts and sports. One negative that has been mentioned to me is that it would be harder for elementary/middle school students to browse for books at their reading level. The books would still be classified as J or YA and labeled that way so it would be visually obvious what is what. Trustee Graham inquired about usage of the collection, possibly that age group is doing more internet searches for non-fiction resources. Also, she wondered about the target age range. According to the director, it varies,

and it varies by topic. Science books probably targets 5th - 6th graders doing science projects while craft books could be for anyone. General consensus didn't see any huge negatives to the idea. The director mentioned talking to Trustee Smrt to get her opinion.

The New Book Nook: The director has had several people mention how much they miss The Book Nook since it burned down and Pat Delaney has said she does not plan to open somewhere else. The director was wondering if the Friends would be interested in setting up something like that with the paperbacks that are donated to the library. Right now we have an uncatalogued paperback section and those get minimal processing, they don't have security strips or barcodes and they're not in the library catalog, all they get is a property stamp. If the Friends were interested in a New Book Nook idea, that collection would go away and we would find a different place for a paperback exchange. Trustee Welder mentioned one book store he knows of, it's not a straight one to one exchange but the purchaser pays something, even if it's just a quarter. Trustee Winke asked about the other books the Friends have for sale, if that money comes to the library. The director explained that it did indirectly through the Friends of the library supplementing programs and equipment.

Finally, at November's meeting the director mentioned the library levy and the board had some questions about that. There are 79 libraries in Iowa that have passed the levy, none of them in our population size. Burlington and Mediapolis both have it. Mediapolis passed it to get a library and they use the money they bring in to contract with Burlington for library services. If we were to pass the full \$.27/1000 it would bring in \$68,000 based on current property values.

Next meeting February 19, 5:30 pm Fort Madison Public Library.