

Fort Madison Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of the regular meeting held May 21, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room at the Fort Madison Public Library.

Present: Sharon Groene, Candice Smrt, Brenda Graham, Larry Wright, Anne Heitz, Phil Hecht and Linda Beck
Staff Present: Sarah Clendineng (Library Director)
Excused Absences: Ron Welder, Fred Winke and Chad Cangas
Guest: David Varley, City Manager

Meeting was called to order with a quorum present at 5:30.

Motion to excuse absences of Ron Welder and Fred Winke – Heitz; 2nd – Smrt.

Motion to approve the agenda - Beck; 2nd - Hecht. Carried Unanimously

Public Comments: Trustee Smrt shared a couple of comments she had heard from the public. First, there was a question about late fees on books, is there a period of time, such as a statute of limitations, after which the fees are automatically forgiven. The director replied that there isn't currently a policy in place for that but that the board could institute one. Trustee Heitz inquired about the rationale for that. Trustee Smrt replied that they were just curious if this sort of mechanism was in place. The consensus of the board seemed to be that the patron accrued the fee and needs to pay it off. Also, Trustee Smrt inquired about the tie-dye t-shirts, parents have inquired if their children will be allowed to actively participate in the coloring process this year. The director explained that the reason children have not been allowed to do this in the past is because the dye we use is not safe for children to handle. They children do get to place the rubber bands and select the colors. The dye hasn't been purchased for this year and will look into a non-toxic dye for this year as we have had parents ask in the past.

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 16 meeting correcting typos - Hecht; 2nd - Graham. Carried Unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary: The library received a thank you note from the Jean Espy Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for our participation in their celebration of Rachel Albright. In addition to displaying the flags owned by the library, we had it set up for people to fold their own five pointed star, if they wanted to. Trustee Groene reported that there were about six people who stopped by while she was there. The note reads, "Dear Sarah and Library Staff, The members of the Jean Espy Chapter want to thank you for allowing us to use the library as part of our Rachel Albright day. The historical memorabilia of Fort Madison that you displayed helped educate the public about our city's early history. Thank you for providing space in the library for the demonstration of how to make the five pointed star. The presentation really brought to life Betsy Ross's role in designing America's first flag. Thank you, Jean Espy chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve the May 2015 bills – Beck; 2nd – Hecht. Carried Unanimously.

Director's Report: In addition to the attached report, the director talked about the adult summer reading program, where adults who read 10 books get a free coffee or a free book. They will also get entered into a grand prize drawing for a summer fun basket. The director was also contacted about putting a charging station in the library for smart phones and tablets. This station will be funded by an advertisement paid for by a business in the community. The company providing the station will arrange for the advertiser and they are careful to pursue family friendly businesses.

Trustee Wright inquired about the statistics and the drop in computer usage from last year. The director will be

putting together a long term overview at the end of the year to give an idea of the big picture.
Motion to adjourn – Hecht; 2nd – Heitz. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Next meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2015, 5:30 pm Fort Madison Public Library.