

Minutes of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Board of Directors

Location: BPL Missouri River Room; 515 North Fifth Street

Present: Library Board Members: Mike LaLonde, President; Dianna Kindseth, Vice President; Mike Fladeland, Justin Hughes, and Sue Sorlie

Also Present: Christine Kujawa, Library Director; Elizabeth Jacobs, Assistant Library Director; and Bea Kaiser, Administrative Office Manager

The January 26, 2023 Board meeting was called to order by M. LaLonde, President, at 12:00 p.m.

The December 15 minutes had been mailed out in advance. D. Kindseth moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by M. Fladeland. Motion carried.

The vendor invoices for January 2023 and additional December 2022, along with the December financial reports had been mailed out in advance. Following discussion, M. Fladeland moved to approve the January 2023 and additional December 2022 vendor invoices. Seconded by D. Kindseth. Motion carried. Following discussion, D. Kindseth moved to accept the December financial reports. Seconded by J. Hughes. Motion carried.

In the Director's report C. Kujawa reported:

- Main floor painting project-
 - It is complete, with a final cost of \$49,340, paid by Friends of the Library \$15,000, an anonymous donor couple \$16,000, and the library fund \$18,340.
- Carpet-
 - Arrow Service Team is coming in the next couple of days to meet with Lynn Bryntesen, Building and Grounds Manager, regarding areas of carpet on the main floor to be cleaned. This includes study rooms, Children's Library, story room, and staff hallways. They will schedule the work to be done after hours, most likely over a couple of weekends. They will also clean the meeting room carpets after the upcoming Friends of the Library book sale.
- 2022-
 - Work is continuing to close out the 2022 budgets. Hopefully it will be done in time for the February Library Board meeting, with a year-end report at that time.
- Citizen's Academy-
 - The library is participating again in the Bismarck Citizen Academy. This is a 12-week program designed to broaden knowledge of city operations and enhance understanding of how city government brings these services to its residents and community.
 - Each week the 20 citizens will learn about a different city department. The library tour is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, February 23. A representative from each

department will be on hand to explain the function of their area as well as take questions.

- Legislative-
 - C. Kujawa is continuing to advocate opposition for HB 1205 and SB 2123.
 - The partnership with the ACLU continues.
 - A library advocacy group was created, with discussions via email or Zoom, to plan testimony and voice concerns affiliated with these bills.
 - C. Kujawa has been quoted in several local, state, national and international news outlets, and was interviewed live on News Nation.
 - The Bismarck Tribune published an opinion piece in opposition to the bills.
 - On January 24, the Bismarck City Commission voted 4-1 to oppose both bills. The mayor stated that he's opposed to censorship on all levels. Should the bills pass their respective chambers and swap sides, C. Kujawa will ask pertinent City officials to testify in opposition to the bills.
 - Foundation Executive Director Beth Schatz Kaylor sent out a call to action to Foundation supporters.
 - Moving forward-
 - The library advocacy group members and others will write letters to the editor for their local newspapers.
 - Encourage legislator contact by stakeholders in their districts, coordinated lists will enhance this effort.
 - The ND First Amendment Defense Group published a petition in opposition to HB 1205.
C. Kujawa is meeting with one of the organizers tomorrow to get more information.
 - Thanks to M. Fladeland for providing oral and written testimony for both bills. He offered to submit a letter to the Bismarck Tribune on behalf of the Library Board.
 - Assumptions-
 - Based upon questions and email responses from legislators in the Judiciary Committees, should the bills pass, there might be more favorable support from the senate floor.
 - If either bill passes or goes into law, operational plans must be determined. Per Board feedback, proposals include maintaining current challenge procedures, as well as First Amendment legal representation to be retained at no expense to C.Kujawa.
- Other-
 - Cozy Up With a Good Book is the theme of the 2023 Beanstack Reading Challenge from January 15 – March 18. All ages are encouraged to participate.
 - Hygge fun will be had February 10-12 from 1-4 p.m. Board games, coloring, crochet supplies, puzzles, a reading nook, and a hot chocolate bar will set the tone for a relaxing afternoon of fellowship.
 - Pet Therapy Hangout: Because Dogs are Better, will be held on February 14 from 5:30-7 p.m. Nationally certified therapy dogs, including Chief Morale Officer Sky Kujawa, will spread happiness to patrons who stop to visit.

- First Tuesdays with ND Job Service are being held from 1-5 p.m. Those seeking employment, veteran's services, unemployment insurance, and more may visit with a Job Service representative.

For the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc., J. Hughes reported:

- The Foundation Development Committee is meeting today.
- Nomination Committee is reviewing nominations for the upcoming April election to fill Foundation Board vacancies.
- Employee recognition will be held in February.
- The Art of Books event will be held in April.
- Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. and a Midwest Art grant have been applied for and matching funding was discussed.
- A piece of information on the 501c3 application was not appropriately completed, it has now been corrected. This makes it easier for donors to identify the Foundation, which now has the best ranking.
- The boiler project continues thanks to an anonymous donor couple.
- J. Hughes will investigate if the Foundation is eligible to participate in Giving Hearts Day.

For the Friends of the Library (FOL), E. Jacobs reported:

- The FOL Board met last week and approved the FOL 2023 budget. Included projects are \$15,000 towards the interior main floor painting, and a \$12,000 equipment upgrade to the story room, quotes are being obtained.
- Additional volunteer opportunities include assisting with counting board game pieces upon return of the item.
- Volunteer scheduling has been created for the book sale being held March 2 – March 4.

Other Business-

- It was requested that Matt and Sandy McMerty, owners of The Gifted Bean Coffee House, attend the February Library Board meeting.
- C. Kujawa explained two boiler bids were received. The Alpine Boiler is said to have higher efficiency ratings and environmentally friendly, and was the lowest bid. Following discussion, M. Fladeland moved to accept the Lindtech, Inc. boiler replacement bid. Seconded by J. Hughes. Motion carried.
- Following discussion, D, Kindseth moved to allow M. Fladeland to submit a letter to the editor to the Bismarck Tribune on behalf of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees in opposition of HB 1205 and SB 2123. Seconded by J. Hughes. Motion carried.

The regular Board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Kaiser
Administrative Office Manager

Christine Kujawa
Library Director