

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, and Sue Sorlie

Not Present: Library Board Member: Justin Hughes

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

The March 23, 2023 Board meeting was called to order by M. LaLonde, President, at 12:01 p.m.

The February 23 minutes had been mailed out in advance. D. Kindseth moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by S. Sorlie. Motion carried.

The vendor invoices for March 2023, along with the February financial reports had been mailed out in advance. Following discussion, M. Fladeland moved to approve the March 2023 vendor invoices. Seconded by D. Kindseth. Motion carried. Following discussion, M. Fladeland moved to accept the February financial reports. Seconded by D. Kindseth. Motion carried.

Snow budget update:

C. Kujawa explained that due to the near-record amounts, snow removal may end overbudget. Depending on expenses, funds may be transferred from the building repair and maintenance line item.

2023 Part-Time Awards Ceremony:

Five part-time staff will be recognized at the ceremony to be held on Thursday, March 30 at 10:00 a.m. M. Fladeland, D. Kindseth, and S. Sorlie plan to attend.

In the Director's report C. Kujawa reported:

- Citizen's Academy review-
 - On February 23, twenty citizens toured the library. Representative staff members summarized services and answered questions. The approximately three-hour event was a great opportunity to share information about the library, create new connections, and hopefully gain additional stakeholders.
- Legislative-
 - A "read-in" was held on March 2 on the library plaza. Press from several media outlets were in attendance.
 - Bismarck Tribune photographer Tom Stromme took a photo of the "Read 'Em Before They're Gone" display to be used with an article on library bills.
 - The Senate Judiciary Committees accepted the bill amendments for HB 1205 that

C. Kujawa and a small group of librarians shared with them. A vote remains to occur on the Senate floor.

- The House Judiciary Committee hearing on SB 2360 took place, and amendments were submitted by the same group as well. C. Kujawa hasn't received word on the status of the bill or if they intend to accept any of the amendments.
- Legal representation is on standby should the final bills violate the First Amendment.
- Book Challenge-
A request for reconsideration was received for the book LGBTQ+ Rights by Virginia Loh-Hagan. Traci Juhala, Head of Youth Services, provided a response to the patron with the decision to retain the book as it meets the criteria of our Collection Development policy, has several positive reviews, and is circulating.

Other-

- C. Kujawa finished the compilation of the 2022 statistics, as well as completed and submitted the annual ND Public Library Survey with the ND State Library. E. Jacobs will utilize the compiled statistics for the library's 2022 annual report.
- The annual state aid to library application process hasn't been completed. There is pending legislation regarding the application process. Library directors won't complete the application until further directed on the bill outcome.
- Families Around the World will be held on Monday, March 27 from 6-8 p.m. Local groups will host informational booths, cultural activities, and crafts. Mister G, the "bilingual rock star," will perform tunes in Spanish and English.
- Mister G will return Tuesday, March 28 for stories and songs as he shares his books, which will be available for purchase and signing by the author.
- Outreach vehicles and many staff participants will be in the band day parade on Friday, May 12.
- 2024 budget planning will begin soon.
- The boilers haven't arrived yet.
- C. Kujawa will be meeting with artist Crystal Tretbar regarding suggestions for window covering art on the east side of the building.
- Over the next few months, C. Kujawa and E. Jacobs will review policies and propose suggested changes to the Library Board.
- C. Kujawa attended the MPLA convention in Norman, OK. Presentations on intellectual freedom and information on the First Amendment were beneficial.

For the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc., M. LaLonde reported:

- The Art of Books event will be held April 28, with 30 artists participating in the event.

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

- The book sale held March 2 – March 4 raised nearly \$19,000, including almost \$1,000 in donations.
- A donation drive was also held with volunteers accepting and sorting.
- Volunteers have been assisting Circulation with counting game pieces.
- A committee will meet next week to plan the next Librarypalooza.

Other Business-

The regular Board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Kaiser
Administrative Office Manager

Christine Kujawa
Library Director