

DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 25, 2016

Call to Order: President Bogue called the meeting of the Duluth Library Board to order at 4:33 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2016. On a motion by Ramsland, seconded by Katz, the agenda was approved.

Members Present: David Sperl, Sandy Scheiber, Megan Oswald, Neil Glazman, Betty Ramsland, Virginia Katz, Lizzy Luoma, Sister Edith Bogue

Also Present: Carla Powers, Jim Filby Williams, Joel Sipress

Absent: Matt Rosendahl

Minutes: On a motion by Sperl, seconded by Scheiber, the library board minutes of the regular meeting of September 27, 2016, were approved as drafted.

Reports:

Friends of Duluth Public Library

Written report was reviewed. Condolences were shared over Margaret Berg's death. Board members expressed their appreciation to the Friends for the recent donation to the library. These donations have been unrestricted so the library can use the funds in whatever way is needed. Friends' donations support the Freegal music service, which allows Duluth cardholders to stream up to three hours of music per day and download up to five songs per week free of charge. The board noted that such services need to be touted citywide.

Duluth Library Foundation

Written report was reviewed. Libations was very successful, earning \$12,000 this year. The foundation is still seeking a liaison who can serve on both the library board and the foundation board when Katz's term on the library board ends in March. The foundation board is made up of 12 members, and there is a nominating committee.

Manager's Report

General consensus was the new website is livelier and easier to navigate. Ramsland asked if it would be possible to make the board/foundation/friends more prominent on the home page, and Powers replied that she would look into it. A new youth program called Teen Scene is a successful event modeled after the Anime/Manga Club but with a broader appeal.

Old Business:

2017 Library Budget Update

Filby Williams explained again the Mayor's initial plan to increase taxes to fund an early literacy specialist position. Due to an unforeseen deficit and the need to fund streets out of the tax levy, this position is not included in the 2017 budget. There are two potential windfalls that could come early next year. The state will be reimbursing the city for the 2016 storm clean-up, and depending on the election results a new tax bill may be signed. If these funds come in, the early literacy specialist would be back on the table. Once created this position would continue to be funded in future budgets. The Librarian II position remains open through the first half of 2017. The library's budget and strategic plan will be presented to council November 7 at 5:15 p.m. Target goal for the strategic plan approval is November 21. There will be an opportunity for public comment

on this date. Capital improvements have been identified and funds are earmarked for the HVAC. Sipress raised the concern that improvements don't limit the discussion of a large-scale renovation or new building in the future. It is likely that 2020 would be the first year that financing would be available. Filby Williams alleviated fears that the building would be allowed to deteriorate to a dangerous level. City Property and Facilities Manager Erik Birkeland will be invited to the November meeting to answer board questions.

2016 Pew Report on Library Use

The report showed that people still want libraries to do what libraries do - provide meeting space, books/research, and community programming. Compared to academic libraries, having print materials (including periodicals) remains important at public libraries. Sperl noted that even people who said they do not use libraries regularly believe libraries are important for the community.

New Business:

Library Advocacy Talking Points

Katz, Ramsland, Rosendahl, and perhaps Bogue are scheduled to meet with the Mayor on October 31 at 11 a.m. The main focus of the meeting will be staffing in regards to the budget and strategic plan. Concerns about the facility and next steps for a building project may be discussed as well.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.