

DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Minutes of Virtual Meeting
November 23, 2021

Call to Order: Sue Henke called the meeting of the Duluth Library Board to order at 4:33 on November 23rd, 2021.

Members Present: Sue Henke, Michelle Foshay, Neil Glazman, Betty Ramsland, Stephen Welsh, Lizzy Louoma, Alex Strelow, David Sperl

Also Present: Library Manager Carla Powers, PPL Department Director Jim Filby Williams, Duluth Library Foundation Executive Director Erin Kreeger

Public Attendees: Debbie Rasmussen from League of Women's Voters

Absent: Matt Rosendahl

Virtual Attendees Review and approve Agenda

Review and approve agenda: Henke called for additions, received none, and determined the agenda was approved as posted.

Review and approve minutes from October

Motion by Ramsland, seconded by Glazman to approve the minutes as drafted. Approved by show of hands.

Public Comments: There were no public comments received in advance of the meeting.

DLF Executive Director Introductions

Erin Kreeger, the new executive director of the Duluth Library Foundation, introduced herself and gave an overview from the last foundation board meeting.

Foundation Report (Erin Kreeger)

Investment accounts have grown significantly in last few years to current balance of \$2.4 million
Gift to library at end of December totaled 50,000 (not including ECRD support), which is one of larger gifts in recent years

Alworth grant: Karen and Royal Alworth offered a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$100,000 for any donations received between 2020 and 2023. Two years into the project, the match has already been fulfilled. They have decided to continue matching donations through the end of this calendar year.

Reports

Library Manager's Report (Powers)

Accepted as submitted

Friends Report (Ramsland)

Littlest Holiday Booksale December 7-9 in the hallway outside of library.

Mount Royal Market's round up of the till proceeds will go towards Friends of the Library for the month of January.

Friends are donating \$8000 to the library by the end of the year.

Old Business

Staffing: Committee interviewed five candidates for Library Supervisor and will make a decision soon for that position.

Supervisors currently are onboarding two new Librarian I's.

Will be hiring a tech for ECRD in near future.

Security: After further discussion Filby Williams and Powers decided to move away from a partnership with Clean & Safe. Instead they are exploring options to create a new safety position within the library staff. They will meet with police to get input on a job description as well as support in the interim.

New Business

Review of 2022 budget presentation

Overview of 2016-2020 strategic plan progress

2022 meeting schedule attached (no meeting in December)

Ongoing Business

Advocacy: Sue Henke, Matt Rosendahl, Betty Ramsland, Carla Powers, and Jim Filby Williams all met with Mayor Larson on November 22 to talk about how to move forward with facilities. There may be a potential to partner with another organization to upgrade the building.

Mayor Larson said a lot of effort has been put into trying to find funding. She will put together a memo for the board to review at our next meeting in January.

Adjournment at 5:55 pm.

Next meeting:

January 25, 2022 via WebEx.