

**DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**August 27, 2019**

**Call to Order:** President Rosendahl called the meeting of the Duluth Library Board to order at 4:30 on August 27, 2019.

**Introductions were made.**

**Members Present:** Matt Rosendahl, Lizzy Luoma, Michelle Foshay, Stephen Welsh, Neil Glazman, Betty Ramsland, David Sperl

**Also Present:** Carla Powers, Debbi Rasmussen (League of Women Voters), Em Westerlund (City Council liaison), John Ramos (Duluth Monitor)

**Absent:** Sue Henke

**Public comments** (3 minutes per person)

Rasmussen: League of Women Voters exhibit at UMD on the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment will be going on through September.

Glazman: Kathleen Murphy wrote a nice article in Sunday's Duluth News Tribune about the importance of the library.

**Review and approve agenda from June 25.** Motion by Glazman, seconded by Sperl. to approve the agenda as drafted. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reports:**

Friends of the Library Report

Written report was reviewed. Luoma mentioned that she is impressed with the new social stories posted on the library's website. They were developed with assistance from a speech language pathologist.

Foundation Report

Rosendahl shared that Learning & Libations at the Library will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21. Board members will receive an invitation soon.

Library Manager's Report

Powers mentioned that an early literacy librarian position is posted and open until September 8. The library is in the process of hiring two half-time technicians. There were 116 applicants.

**New Business:**

Overdue fines

There is a press event planned for next week. It is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 4 at the Main Library. The new policy will go into effect that day.

### Early Literacy Initiative

The Duluth Library Foundation is offering to partner with city to get a new project off ground. Foundation representatives met with the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer in July to introduce the idea. Their response was favorable. Mayor Larson will present her budget to the City Council September 9, and the Foundation is hopeful that funding for the initiative will be included. The Board discussed best practices and ways to measure the effectiveness of a school readiness initiative. Westerlund mentioned that the Library's budget presentation to the City Council is scheduled for November 12 at 5:45 p.m.

### Gathering of Associated Library Advocates

The annual meeting of the Friends, Foundation and Library Board will take place on Tuesday October 1, 2019, beginning at 4:30 at the Mount Royal Branch. Light refreshments will be served. The group brainstormed ideas for the agenda. Ramsland suggested conversation in lieu of a speaker. Board agreed to focus on early literacy initiative.

### **Ongoing Business**

#### Library advocacy

Rasmussen brought up the idea of voicing support to Mayor about funding the early literacy initiative. Advocacy may be one of the topics discussed at the Gathering of Associated Library Advocates next month.

Adjournment

Next regular meeting: Tuesday September 24, 2019 at 4:30 in the Main Library Conference Room