

DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Minutes of Virtual Meeting
July 28, 2020

Call to Order: Sue Henke called the meeting of the Duluth Library Board to order at 4:30 on July 28, 2020.

Members Present: Michelle Foshay, Matt Rosendahl, Neil Glazman, Sue Henke, David Sperl, Betty Ramsland, Stephen Welsh

Also Present: Carla Powers (Library Manager), Jim Filby Williams (Director of Property, Parks & Libraries), Dennis McManus (public citizen)

Absent: Lizzy Luoma

Review and approve agenda

Motion by Glazman, seconded by Sperl, to approve agenda as drafted. Motion approved by voice consent.

Public Comments: None were submitted prior to meeting.

Review and approve minutes from June 23, 2020.

Motion by Sperl, seconded by Glazman to approve minutes as drafted. Motion approved by voice consent.

Reports

Library Manager's Report (Powers)

Curbside pickup continues; three staff were brought back as of July 7 (two full-time and one half-time) and that's helped with current programming and services. Returned books can be dropped off only during curbside open hours.

Foundation Report (Rosendahl)

Save the date, September 19 for Libations for the Library: At Home Edition with online programming about history of city. This event will be the only celebration of Duluth's sesquicentennial.

Old Business

Every Child Ready Duluth Update:

Powers reviewed her written report. The planning consultant and ECRD Brain Trust continue to work on planning. Library staff has teamed with Parks and Rec to offer Story Strolls, which also include take and make craft kit giveaways, early literacy information, and a Pop Up Play event.

New Business

Main Library Facility Study

Manager of Property and Facilities Maintenance is concerned about the age of the building systems. He was able to allocate some funding to review and further value engineer the latest building study from TKDA. TKDA staff is working on the infrastructure side, and Gensler architect Sara Weiner is working on the design side. The goal is to come up with a lower cost option that renews the building's systems and improves the use of space. This work will be used to inform the Mayor's decision about whether to bring forward a proposal to renovate the library. At the conclusion of the study, a range of options will be presented to the Mayor.

Advocacy

Arik Forsman had suggested meeting with councilors individually to advocate for the library's needs. Betty, Sue, and Neil each met with several councilors. Later this week they will be joined by representatives from the Duluth Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library for a meeting with Mayor Larson and CAO Noah Schuchman. At this meeting they will present specific requests for services and needed staffing in order to provide a higher level of service for the remainder of 2020 and in 2021.

Adjournment

Next meeting: August 25, 2020 via WebEx.