

DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes June 22, 2021

Sue Henke called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

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

Also present: Library Manager Carla Powers

Absent: Matt Rosendahl, Michelle Foshay

Review and approve agenda

Motion by Strelow, seconded by Glazman, to approve the agenda as drafted. Approved by unanimous show of hands.

Public comments received in advance of meeting – none.

Approve minutes of May 25, 2021 meeting – Motion by Luoma, seconded by Ramsland, to approve the minutes as presented. Approved by unanimous show of hands.

Reports

Library Manager's Report – Almost all positions are filled or will be posted and filled: six library technicians, six library aides, and one delivery driver. Approval has been received to fill two Librarian I vacancies. A Librarian II position remains vacant with plans to fill it later in the year.

The Main Library is now open to the public. Patrons, for the most part, are complying with the library's request to wear masks. There is a staff "greeter" stationed near the front door to direct patrons to various areas within the building. This position currently is being covered by rotating staff. Library management will discuss whether to keep this position in the long term.

The new mural at Mt. Royal is expected to be finished by the end of June. Invitations to the unveiling will be sent to the board, city officials, and the media.

Approximately 80 people were in contact with library staff at the 4th Street Wellness Festival held at the Damiano Center.

Story time, story strolls, Kaleidoscope and band concerts will be held throughout the summer. All in-person programs will take place outdoors to reduce concerns over Covid transmission.

A couple of windows at the Main Library were broken recently. The windows have been boarded up, and replacement windows are on order. A person was arrested and charged. The cost to replace the windows is approximately \$1400.

Comfortable furniture such as soft chairs have not been returned to the libraries' public spaces yet. Some have been discarded due to condition. There is computer access at all locations, but few computers are available for the time being due to physical distancing requirements. Computer availability is keeping up with demand at this time.

ECRD Report – An Every Child Ready Duluth newsletter has been written and published by library staff.

Old Business

Update on services and staffing – Statistics on computer usage, circulation, etc. will again be available to the board. Hours of operation need to be extended. As of now, there is not enough staff for Saturday service at branches. Main is open on Saturdays. There will be continued discussion by library management about extended hours to begin after Labor Day.

New Business

August board meeting – There is no board meeting in July. Discussion followed on where to hold the August 24 meeting. Main closes at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, making it impossible to hold a publicly accessible meeting at 4:30. There were suggestions to meet at the West Duluth Branch if the Evergreen Senior Center is available, or possibly use the Depot.

Ongoing Business

Advocacy – There was discussion about attending the upcoming City Hall in the City event, which will take place online.

The library does provide social services to the public in an indirect way: there is a formal partnership with MnSURE, and St. Louis County social workers used to be at the Main Library once a week to advise of the programs available through the county. This spring a Covid immunization clinic was held at the Mt. Royal Branch through Public Health and Human Services.

Adjournment – Motion by Luoma, seconded by Welsh, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.