

Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees
February 8, 2023

A meeting of the Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees was held
Wednesday February 8th, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Present: The following members of the Library Board were present at the library: X Cretzmeyer, Deborah Hatz, Pat Kenner (via Zoom), Lisa Mellecker, Bob Turnquist, Molly Logan Wilson. Also present: Alison Ames Galstad (Library Director), Ellen Alexander (Assistant Library Director), Hai Huynh (City Council Representative), Kate Dale (Collection Development Librarian), Klaus Nsende Missamou (UI Social Work Practicum Student).

Absent: Amanda Elkins.

VicePresident Turnquist called the meeting to order at 6:00.

The Board considered approval of the agenda. Hatz moved that the agenda be approved, Mellecker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the minutes of the January 2023 meeting. Kenner moved that the minutes be approved as presented, Hatz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the bills for January. Hatz remarked at how large the US Cellular bill is. Galstad said this is just for hotspot service, and will keep an eye on it as ImOn and Metronet continue to offer more service in the community. Hatz moved that the bills be approved as presented, Mellecker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kate Dale, Collection Services Librarian, gave the staff report. She has worked at CPL for 18 years. Last time she presented to the board, she talked mostly about her collection development, so she chose to focus on the graphic design work she has been focusing on lately. There are 4 part time staff members helping her with collection development projects currently. She showed examples of graphic design work. She designs photo booth backgrounds for special events. She works on ads, and passed around some examples of ads for Little Village. She gave examples of displays of materials she has put together – currently there is a display of books that have never been checked out. She passed around the coloring sheets she has made from historical photos for the 150th celebration of Coralville. She also passed around a list of reference questions she has received in the past.

Alexander gave a report of the library's involvement and contributions in the Coralville sesquicentennial. Wendy Stevenson and Annie Craycraft, who work on the library's Digital History Library, are both involved with the Education subcommittee of the 150th planning committee, and Alexander is on the larger committee. This is a great opportunity to get the word out more about the DHL. One thing they are doing is identifying historical photos that Kate is converting into coloring sheets – there are four so far, with releases periodically. They will be published as a coloring book at the end of the celebration. They are also hoping to collect more historical photos, and are working to get participants to give oral histories for the database as well. The library will also be hosting an event on March 26th. There will be activities and displays, including the library's photobooth with a backdrop of an historical photo of the first baseball fields in Coralville, around the library. The event will culminate in a talk by Rex Branstatter and a reception after. The library will be set up with the stage by the hearth much like Paul Engle Award events, and will be closed for regular business that day. The committee is hoping to have at least two more talks on Sundays around Coralville history. The library is also hosting a Soul Food Dinner on Friday February 17th. Royceann Porter will be bringing the food, and the library will screen "Soul Food Junkie" at 5pm before the dinner. Members of the 150th Committee will be here. Alexander and Stevenson are also spearheading a project that would involve wheat

pasting historical photos around buildings in Coralville with Isaac Campbell. We also wrote a grant to the Iowa Arts Council for an add-on to the wheat pasting where we would do a version of the Inside Out project, where Isaac would come and take photos of kids from Kirkwood, Central, and Northwest to wheat paste. Isaac visited a few weeks ago and we had a meeting and toured buildings around town. Lastly, we are being considered for a grant with University of Iowa through the Mellon Foundation, by which we would work with a Humanities PhD student in June and July. We would have the student help to promote the oral history project.

Cretzmeyer gave a report from the Friends. Their booksale last weekend brought in \$3,598.12, all by free-will donation. Lots of inventory went, which was great. They are proposing a monthly meeting of volunteers, and are looking for projects. Memberships will now be due in January rather than in the fall.

Galstad reported on behalf of the Foundation Board. They have not met, but have a meeting next Wednesday. At the March meeting, she will have an update about the annual campaign. There will be a report from Hills Bank at the next Foundation meeting as well.

Galstad gave the Director's Report. Staff are doing many extraneous things, including many meetings for the 150th and trying to expand the focus of Coralville's history to include diversity. Statistics are still being compared to February of 2020 – next month we'll go back to comparing to a year ago. It continues to be interesting to see the new normal statistics. Kenner asked about "Chat 'n' Chi" on the meeting room use report – this was supposed to be "Chat 'n' Chai" – Samira has been making and serving chai in the café on Tuesday mornings and one Saturday per month. It has been very successful both in terms of creating community and in she and Klaus making connections and helping people get resources they need. Alexander introduced Klaus Nsende Missamou, the UI Social Work Practicum student we are working with this semester. He speaks French and has experience with many area social services, including immigration services. Galstad also passed around a report about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program – we are well on our way toward the target of signing up 60% of the eligible kids.

Alexander played a voicemail she received from a grateful patron.

Galstad reminded Board members that the next meeting will be on March 8th.

Cretzmeyer motioned that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Alexander
Assistant Library Director
(Subject to approval at the March 2023 meeting.)