

Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees
March 8, 2023

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

Present: The following members of the Library Board were present at the library: X Cretzmeyer, Amanda Elkins, Deborah Hatz, Pat Kenner, Lisa Mellecker, Bob Turnquist, Molly Logan Wilson. Also present: Alison Ames Galstad (Library Director), Ellen Alexander (Assistant Library Director), Mike Jorgensen (Adult Services Librarian).

Absent: Hai Huynh (City Council Representative).

President Elkins called the meeting to order at 6:00.

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

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

The Board considered approval of the bills for February. Elkins asked about Envisionware. This is maintenance contracts for many modules we have through them: print release, security, self-checks. Galstad pointed out that the Antelope Lending Library will now be stopping in Western Hills weekly. Turnquist moved that the bills be approved as presented, Hatz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Jorgensen, Adult Services Librarian, gave the staff report. Mike is now managing adult collections including Fiction, Mystery, audiobooks and playaways, Libby, Large Print, and DVDs. He's been working currently on a very large Fiction weeding project. He also does all of the programming for adults. The Mystery book group meets monthly in person; Novel Conversations is currently still on Zoom but he plans to change it to in-person this summer. Also he does movie screenings. The last two summers he had drive-in movies. More people have been attending programs. Just this week, he held the first Trivia night in 3 years. He also holds special programs. For instance, Kate Aspengren will be speaking this summer. He also helps with the crafts to go for adults, and of course the summer and winter reading programs. These can be done either on Beanstack or on paper. He's been trying to do programs that would appeal to younger adults. Mike also produces the adult monthly newsletter.

The Board considered the CPL triennial Accreditation application. The application, along with strategic planning documentation, were in the board packets. We meet the highest level of accreditation, which means the highest level of Enrich Iowa money.

Cretzmeyer gave a report from the Friends. They have not met. They received an offer of prints gifted from the Hyatt hotel, which is remodeling. They are contemplating how they would auction them off – Galstad met with Bill Benson and Deb Gill to start talking about this. One idea was to have one of the Marcia Wegner prints for bidding at the basket auction for 4th Fest. Also, the Friends volunteers met to put together adult craft kits and had a good turnout. The next book sale is in April, and the annual meeting will be April 26th. Galstad has had one nomination for the Pat Dee Award, and the Board can consider it at the next board meeting.

Galstad reported on behalf of the Foundation Board. A representative from Hills Bank was at their last meeting to present. They had the best annual campaign return they've ever had this year. They will consider a wish list at their next meeting.

Galstad gave the Director's Report. Circulation remains strong – we have returned to comparing the current month's statistics to last year on the reports, rather than pre-pandemic statistics. The ration of physical to electronic in-library use is increasing as the number of people coming in continues to rise. We had a huge turnout for the Soul Food Dinner. We showed the movie Soul Food Junkies before the food arrived. Food was late to arrive, but 336 people were fed.

The new Chat and Chai program, hosted by the CRN (Samira) in the Library Cafe is also bringing in large numbers of people.

The Blind Date with a Cookbook video contest was very successful. 164 cookbooks were given away, we had 29 submissions, and 813 members of the public voted on their favorite submission. Winners were given HyVee gift cards.

Galstad attended the ILA Legislative Day yesterday. There is a bill in the senate about restructuring government which would minimize the power of the State Library Commission and put the State Library under administrative services, making the State Librarian a Governor's appointee rather than a professional selected by the Commission. Cutbacks in property tax will be huge. Galstad had been contemplating proposing we explore instituting the library levy (Iowa Code 384.12(2)), but when she researched it she found out it is one of the things in a current proposed property tax reform bill to be cut.

Galstad reminded Board members that the next meeting will be on April 5th.

Cretzmeyer motioned that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07.

Respectfully submitted,

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