

Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees
August 2nd, 2023

A meeting of the Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees was held
Wednesday August 2nd, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Present: The following members of the Library Board were present: X. Cretzmeyer, Amanda Elkins, Deborah Hatz, Pat Kenner, Lisa Mellecker, Bob Turnquist and Molly Logan Wilson. Also present: Hai Huynh (Coralville City Council Representative), Alison Ames Galstad (Library Director), Ellen Alexander (Assistant Library Director) Eric Mott (Library Assistant, Circulation).

Absent:

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

The Board considered approval of the agenda. Hatz moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Kenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the minutes of the July 5th, 2023 meeting. Kenner moved that they be approved, Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the bills for June. Elkins asked about the big payment to Innovative Interfaces. Galstad explained that it is our annual maintenance contact for our integrated system. Hatz moved that the bills be paid as presented, Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric Mott, Library Assistant in Circulation, gave the staff report. He gave a history of his employment at CPL, then focused on his oversight of the hotspots. We began with ten hotspots for checkout in 2019, and are now up to 81. Eric sought advice from other libraries who circulated hotspots before we set up the program at CPL. Mid-May of this year, ICPL quit circulating hotspots at all. Eric showed statistics of who uses our hotspots – 31% are nonresidents, and our hold list is up significantly. Eric expressed his opinion that CPL may need to move to only allowing residents to check them out. (The Board concurred.) He also talked about his involvement with the Book Bike. The bike arrived last summer, and was mostly taken to farmers' markets last summer. It's been taken out much more this year, and to much more variety of places. The bike was at Asian Fest in May, has been to the Food Pantry, the Farmers' Market, Headstart, and Central Park. Eric has stories of how they are reaching people. He sees it as a very low-stakes way to reach people who might be intimidated by the library. The book bike has reached 178 patrons, done 51 material checkouts, and issued 6 new patron cards. Mellecker asked if the bike had ever been to ice cream socials. Cretzmeyer asked if there is a schedule somewhere. It is on the website.

Galstad updated the Board on the 2023 Summer Reading Programs. All programs ended Monday night, and statistics are still being compiled. All three programs were very successful: 485 adults registered, 284 completed; 234 teens got paper logs (participants for all programs could also use Beanstack) and 476 teens attended events; and the children's program gave away 60 passes to the Iowa Children's Museum as half-way prizes, and 380 books were given as prizes to PreK-6th graders. Galstad passed around an infographic from Beanstack with statistics about the programs combined. There will be more statistics next month.

The Board reviewed the Meeting Room Use Policy for Non-Library Activities. The proposed changes seek to clarify when an event can happen beyond normal library hours, as it came to our attention that there was a perception that some groups get special permission to hold events after the library is closed for the night. Turnquist asked why we allow events before open, but not to stay after we are closed. This is because we have staff in the building before we open but not after close. Wilson suggested adding "only" to the last sentence of the proposed change. Kenner moved that the policy be approved with the addition of "only" and

with the “can” in that sentence changed to “may.” Turnquist seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cretzmeyer gave a report from the Friends of the Library. There is a book sale this weekend and they have a lot of books. The Friends have been donating to Kirkwood, Central, and Hills Elementary Schools. They also provided books used as prizes for the Adult Summer Reading Challenge.

The Foundation Board meets later this month.

Galstad gave the Director’s Report. Almost all of the statistics are up over last year, the average daily circulation is up over 1,000 which was normal pre-pandemic Circulation was up about 9%, visits up 15%. ICPL’s percentage of circulation being ematerials is so much larger than the percentage ours is. The Dream Team was scheduled to stay on the library’s lawn for RAGBRAI. They were very late getting in because of the heat, and organizers actually picked many of them up and drove them here. Our building was open until 7pm for an AA meeting anyway, but because of the excessive heat we decided to let the Dream Team eat downstairs later than 7pm. When the storm warning came, they brought all their gear inside and it was decided they would stay in Schwab for the night. The police showed up when the warning hit and opened up the building for an emergency shelter for others, who went to meeting room AB and the lower level corridor. The Dream Team was a great group – very gracious and respectful and it was fun to have them here.

Kenner asked about a news item she saw about Cedar Rapids Public Library getting accreditation. CPL also received its reaccreditation this year.

There will be another 150th event at the library – Born & Raised in Coralville with a panel of business owners, on August 10th at 6:00.

The next CPL Board of Trustees meeting will be September 6th.

Kenner moved the meeting be adjourned, and it was a few minutes after 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

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