

Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees
September 6th, 2023

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

Present: The following members of the Library Board were present: Amanda Elkins, Deborah Hatz, Pat Kenner and Molly Logan Wilson. Also present: Hai Huynh (Coralville City Council Representative; via conference call), Alison Ames Galstad (Library Director), Ellen Alexander (Assistant Library Director), Sara Glenn (Youth Services Coordinator).

Absent: X. Cretzmeyer, Lisa Mellecker, Bob Turnquist.

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 August 2nd, 2023 meeting. Kenner moved that they be approved, Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the bills for August. Galstad reported that the Envisionware invoice is for RFID tags. The AAA Mechanical bill is for a new water bottle filler downstairs, which we got in time for RAGBRAI. Hatz moved that the bills be paid as presented, Kenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sara Glenn, Youth Services Coordinator, gave the staff report. She gave a bit of her professional background; she has worked in five different libraries and has worked at CPL since 2005. She has been Youth Services Coordinator since 2011. She talked about what she sees as the important aspects of Youth Services in light of the library's mission statement. She also talked about the concept of the importance of books being both windows and mirrors for kids, so that they see images like themselves but also see into the lives of others. She shared many examples of this through a collection of children's books she brought with her.

The Board discussed proposed changes to the role of the state Library Commission. Galstad explained that many commissions are being looked at for cuts at the state level, including the library commission. Currently this commission oversees funds of the state library, hires the state librarian, and makes policies. Much like Public Library Boards, the Commission takes the administration of the State Library a step away from direct political influence. The proposal is to make this an advisory board only. Galstad encouraged board members to send letters. Kenner motioned that the Board send a letter opposing these changes; Hatz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Friends of the library had a social media post that they are looking for more donations for their next sale. They had a volunteer event yesterday, during which they assembled craft kits.

Galstad reported that the Foundation Board met and discussed library projects to fund. They are allocating \$6000 toward Mishka's restoration and are looking at how much to put toward the west wing remodel project. They will talk about the annual mailing at their November meeting. Galstad will be meeting with Robyn Hepker soon to design this. This has been the best fundraising year ever for the Foundation.

Galstad gave the Director's Report. Circulation was up slightly over last year, 69% of circulation is of physical items. Both people coming into the building and computer use are up. Laptop use is down – the number we have in the collection is low! The implementation of hotspots only being circulated to Coralville

residents has just been put in place; we have not heard any pushback about it yet. The west wing renovation should begin in November and should go quickly. September is Library Card Signup Month; we will offer free replacement cards. The Library will have a presence at the October 1st final Sesquicentennial event at the Xtreme Arena. We will be highlighting the digital history library; Tim Walch will be with us signing his books. CPL will host Marta McDowell as part of the Iowa City Book Festival on October 11th at noon. We will most likely be hosting the Paul Engle Prize on Thursday, October 19th. Banned Books Week is October 1-7. October 11-13th is ILA in Dubuque; we have many staff presenting this year. The Community Ambassador Program will be recognized at the September 26th City Council meeting. We are also hosting a Community Meal with the Coralville Community Food Pantry on September 29th. The 150th Cookbook should be ready to sell at the October 1st 150th event!

The Board discussed that Mellecker is teaching a Wednesday night class and Galstad will be polling board members for other meeting times for this semester.

Kenner moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted,

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