

SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 8AM

Board Members Present: Juanita Hill, Jerrald Pfabe, Bob Dahms, Nancy Lamberty and Stephanie Croston

Absent: None

Also: Rich Wergin, City Council and Becky Baker, Library Director

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting the notice of such meeting, with the agenda thereon, in the following places: City Hall, Seward Municipal Building, and the Seward Memorial Library. Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to all members of the Library Board. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER & RECOGNITION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT AVAILABILITY

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Hill, who highlighted the availability of the Open Meetings Act.

2. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Programs:

Fall programs for children run through November 2. The current format appears to be working fairly well but staff will evaluate before the spring session occurs. A special family program will be held on Saturday, October 14 due to the annular eclipse happening that morning. Staff requests permission to close the library at 11:30 a.m. so that all participants may adjourn to the blocked off parking lot to view the event, which reaches maximum coverage here at 11:45 a.m. Staff does have eclipse glasses to hand out as they are required for safe viewing. Pfabe moved to close the library at 11:30 a.m. on October 14 for the annular eclipse. Lamberty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Lamberty, Dahms, Croston, and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: None.

Special adult craft classes will be held once a month in October, November and December. The October session is getting a lot of interest already.

To honor being in this building for 20 years, we welcome Craig Johnson this Sunday at 2:00. In addition to this outstanding program, three Nebraska authors (Alex Kava, Tosca Lee and Lydia Kang) will be here on October 22, also at 2:00. These programs will conclude the 20th anniversary celebration of 2023.

This month's book group members will meet jointly in honor of October being National Reading Group month. The meeting will be held during the Reader's Choice normal time – October 9 at 7:00 p.m. and we will be reading *The Memory of Running* by Ron McLarty. R&R continues to discuss current books read and will meet on October 12.

Operations:

Storm Damage: Gutter and light repairs remain on the list. Supposedly this is still being investigated.

Seward Library Foundation: Change-out of the lights in the former computer lab is finished. Staff added shelving for storage and a large monitor installation in meeting room C to the remodel list of projects. In addition, the drain right out of the north alley door needs worked on.

20th Anniversary: This Sunday, October 8 at 2:00, Craig Johnson will present as part of the library's 20th anniversary celebration. Staff is expecting a large crowd based on the number of questions about the day received.

Building: The elevator is once again not working and needs some major repair instead of the patchwork repairs that have been holding it together. Staff is working on still serving our patrons who need it, but hopefully it will be functioning again by this Sunday when we have a major program happening.

Statistics:

	Last month	Two months prior	Last year
Circulation	6,473	7,464	6,192
Overdrive (SML patrons)	1,802	1,886	1,596
Overdrive (ILL to others)	1,578	1,579	1,467
Collection	55,222	54,785	57,965
Attendance	4,149	4,534	4,254
Computer Use	106	125	108
Wireless Use	4,185	5,479	6,890
Window	202	211	198

3. FLEXShare trial from Apollo – discussion and any needed action

Baker shared information about a new free feature on the library's software program, called FlexShare. It allows patrons from other libraries to borrow from our library without creating a new patron account here. A trial group of Seward, York, Geneva, and Hastings libraries would like to work with this feature from October through December, 2023. Pfabe moved to proceed with the trial. Dahms seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Dahms, Lamberty, Croston, and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: None.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

Pfabe moved to approve the consent items. Dahms seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Dahms, Lamberty, Croston, and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Croston, Secretary