

SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 2, 2023 8AM

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

Absent: Stephanie Croston

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 finish this week, though staff has decided to continue Toddler Time until November 22. The special family program on Saturday, October 14 highlighting the annular eclipse was a bust due to awful weather. Only eight participants enjoyed our planned activities. The many leftover viewing glasses will be handed out for next April's eclipse. A "last minute" program featuring the author of The Nebraska Winter of 1948-49 was held on October 30, and drew in 51 folks.

The adult craft program in October had 24 in attendance. Hopefully the November and December sessions will be equally well attended. The November craft night is scheduled on Tuesday night during Nebraska Library Week, November 12-18 (we are adding one more day to this). Other events include a program on the Culture of Israel on November 12, an extra movie on November 16, a puzzle tournament also on November 16, and a program on Seward during WWII by Jerry Pfabe on November 19.

This month's book group activities include Reader's Choice discussing The Astronaut Wives Club by Lily Koppel on November 13, Midday Mysteries reading The Winter People by Jennifer McMahon for November 21, and Random Reads talking about At the Water's Edge by Sara Gruen on November 27. R&R continues to discuss current books read and will meet on November 9.

Operations:

Building: Gutter and light repairs remain on the list from last year's storm. A few leaks in the newly re-shingled roof will be investigated when it rains next. The remaining items added to the list for Sampson's Construction still need to be done; they are dealing with staff shortages.

FlexShare: The four involved libraries are finding out this isn't quite what we thought, so we are checking in with each other more often than anticipated. Our next Zoom call is November 9 and we will be discussing whether we continue this or not. I will keep you posted.

Room Reservations: Baker has asked the Civic Center manager for a master list of regular meetings held there. Once they close for renovation library room use will most likely increase, and the Board may be asked to make some exceptions to existing library policy. After receiving information from them the topic will be back on the agenda for discussion.

Statistics:

	Last month	Two months prior	Last year
Circulation		6,473	6,298
Overdrive (SML patrons)		1,802	1,380
Overdrive (ILL to others)		1,578	1,668
Collection		55,222	58,518
Attendance		4,149	3,891
Computer Use		106	93
Wireless Use		4,185	8,019
Window		202	266

Because this meeting took place on the first of the month, statistics and financial information from October was not yet available. Baker also requested a change in the procedure of sharing future budget documentation, to now wait for the official budget sheet from City Hall before updating the Board budget spreadsheet. The transaction list, which requires Board approval, will be shared at every meeting as it has been. The Board members present agreed to try this new procedure for a few months as a test.

3. REPORT ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Baker shared a list without graphics and explained that graphics will be added, then the information will be used with our annual report as well as becoming a resource for future anniversary celebrations.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Pfabe, Secretary Pro Tem