

SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8AM

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

Absent: none

Also: 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:

Children's programs seem to be going well to date. Staff is grateful for the extra assistance we are getting from Concordia University students and a workforce participant. Staff is preparing for a busy summer, booking outside presenters now. Each of the eight program weeks features a different subject, under the umbrella theme of Adventure Begins at Your Library. The reading club for all ages will run for ten weeks and York is once again participating in the adult reading club challenge. A finale week will wrap up the summer festivities.

The Nebraska Arts Council grant was received and a series of origami classes will take place Monday nights this spring. Promotion geared towards senior citizens will take place, though all ages are welcome. On February 25 Jeff Barnes will present "A Bad Man in a Better Place: Jesse James in Nebraska." The Arthur Clarke Diversity Lecture speaker scheduled for March 24 has been pushed back to 2025, so staff is actively working to find a replacement speaker for this spring. National Library Week in April kicks off with Pat Leach speaking on Sunday April 7 and concludes with the York University theater students. Events during the week will include another puzzle tournament as well as Book Review Bingo.

This month's book group activities include Reader's Choice discussing Happiness for Beginners by Katherine Center on February 12, Midday Mysteries reading The Maid by Nita Prose for February 20, and Random Reads talking about Evvie Drake Starts Over by Linda Holmes on February 26. This group has changed its start time from noon to 11:00 a.m. R&R continues to discuss current books read and will meet on February 8.

Operations:

Building: The gutters and downspouts will all be replaced with new aluminum ones, matching the existing color. This is the final item from the 2022 hail storm damage. Damage from a truck hitting the drive-up window overhang will be worked on this spring; the majority of the damage was to the gutter which is being replaced anyway.

Collection Rearrangement: The spacing of the puzzles in the Fireplace Room was less than ideal, so staff moved the beginning of the adult audio titles into this room instead. Since the room has security cameras the items should be as secure there as anywhere, even though a bit more out of sight. The new adult non-fiction items were able to be moved to where the bestsellers and new adult fiction titles are shelved; that has been a good thing for patrons.

Schedule: The library, following City Hall's lead, closed for three ½ days in January due to inclement weather.

Statistics:

	Last month	Two months prior	Last year
Circulation	6,747	5,904	6,292
Overdrive (SML patrons)	2,220	1,951	1,792
Overdrive (ILL to others)	2,672	2,343	2,502
Collection	55,294	55,537	59,138
Attendance	4,001	3,654	3,664
Computer Use	119	131	78
Wireless Use	3,838	3,689	6,581
Window	234	214	221

3. ANNUAL REPORT – Review

After reviewing the annual report, the Board expressed appreciation for the format. Suggestions made include labeling some of the pictures and making colors more distinct on one graph. Baker said this report would be presented to the City Council on February 20.

4. ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW – General, Circulation (including any change regarding courtesy accounts for child care centers), Patron Responsibility

After review of the General Library Policy, Pfabe moved to remove restrictions and fees for answering reference questions and to make some grammatical changes. Dahms seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Dahms, Lamberty, Croston and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: None.

Lamberty leaves the meeting.

After review of the Circulation Policy, Pfabe moved to add that child care facilities do not qualify for courtesy cards, that lost or damaged items must be paid for and not replaced by the patron, and to make various grammatical changes. Dahms seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Dahms, Croston and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: Lamberty.

After review of the Patron Responsibility Policy, Pfabe moved to make various grammatical changes. Dahms seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Dahms, Croston and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: Lamberty.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Croston, Secretary