

**SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8AM

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

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:

All children's programs are finished now, until mid-May when summer programs begin. The summer program calendar is now available for you to review.

The origami open house had about 20 in attendance, and other community members arrived for the exhibition that followed.

National Library Week events all went well. Staff felt most events were lower in attendance and guessed the construction may have been responsible for at least some of this. The puzzle event had seven teams, Book Review Bingo had 19 in attendance. The York University presentation on Saturday was also lower in attendance. The All Seward Reads Together title was announced during Book Review Bingo. This year it is The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams.

This month's book group activities include Reader's Choice discussing The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows on May 13, Middyay Mysteries reading Dead as a Door Knocker by Diane Kelley for May 21, and Random Reads talking about Inland by Téa Obreht on May 20 (a week early due to Memorial Day). R&R continues to discuss current books read and will meet May 9.

Croston present.

Operations:

Street Construction: Work outside the library continues and we have heard many patron complaints about how difficult it is to get here. Staff is hoping the mid-May completion date for this segment of the project remains accurate.

Building: Gutter replacement has not yet been done, though workers from White Castle Roofing were out to take measurements one day last week.

Meeting Room Use: The state Women's Club conference went fairly well, given the construction challenges. They left a nice donation as a thank you. A few remnants from their visit remain but staff is working on these.

Grants: Seward County Gives is May 4 – 10 and checks supporting the library request maybe dropped off here or at any of the local designated sites. Checks must be written out to Seward County Gives to count for the matching program. No word yet on the next meeting of the Seward Foundation. Applications for the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation grants were due yesterday and Baker submitted several of them: to digitize past Library Board minutes, to digitize the next year of the Seward County Independent and the Milford Times, and to digitize some of the missing years. Baker will also work with Advantage Preservation to clean up the website a bit.

Credit Card fees: City Administration has requested comments on this topic. If you would like to share your opinions with charging patrons for the credit card fees or not, now is the appropriate time to do so. After discussion, the Board felt that for the library it may be most appropriate for a dollar amount to be set for when fees would be charged to the customer, such as \$50. For the small transactions that the library deals with, it may be more of a bother than it would be an advantage. But the library will follow the City's decision in this regard.

Statistics:

As the Board meeting is being held the first of the month, no statistics are available yet for the previous month.

	Last month	Two months prior	Last year
Circulation	0	6,901	6,536
Overdrive (SML patrons)	0	2,078	1,550
Overdrive (ILL to others)	0	2,380	1,599
Collection	0	55,845	58,921
Attendance	0	4,905	4,044
Computer Use	0	166	86
Wireless Use	0	4,381	7,792
Window	0	249	226

**3. 2024-25 BUDGET DRAFT REVIEW**

After review of the budget draft presented, no other items were suggested to add. Baker mentioned that Board members could suggest additions for the budget request during the next week or so as the meeting with City officials is scheduled for May 13.

**4. CONSENT ITEMS**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Croston, Secretary