

**SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, July 3, 2024 8AM

Board Members Present: Juanita Hill, Stephanie Croston, Jerrald Pfabe, Bob Dahms and Nancy Lamberty Absent: none

Also: Rich Wergin, City Council and Niki Wortman, Assistant 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 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:

Summer programs continue with good attendance at most programs, many have over 50 children in attendance. Nature is this week's theme, and the rest of the summer themes are Science, Construction and Gaming. The grand finale for all ages is a pizza party at Bottle Rocket on July 30 at 5:30 so staff requests an early closing time of 5:00 that day; this change in published hours needs Board approval. Pfabe moved to approve the early closing. Lamberty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Dahms, Croston, Lamberty and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: None.

Fall programs for children will have a similar schedule to the spring, with Story Times and Toddler Times offered Tuesday and Wednesday mornings with times flip-flopping. After school programs will be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. At this time no special children's programs are planned. Adult programs will include the usual book group meetings and Thursday night line dancing sessions. Coordinated programs for the All Seward Reads Together promotion will include one on phobias and hopefully a London travelogue in August and September, and a community book discussion time potentially on October 6. The Arthur Clarke Diversity lecture will be held October 20 and will feature Jerry Pfabe talking about the KKK in Seward County and in Nebraska. A discussion of the One Book, One Nebraska title will also be held in October.

This month's book group activities include Reader's Choice discussing The Soldier's Wife by Margaret Leroy on July 8, Midday Mysteries reading Before the Fall by Noah Hawley for July 16, and Random Reads talking about Dancing With the Octopus by Debora Harding on July 22. R&R continues to discuss current books read and will meet July 11.

Operations:

Grants: The Seward Library Foundation received grant funds from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation to digitize the Seward Independent and the Milford Times. Work on this will be done after July 4. Some grants are available if any of you would like to attend the Nebraska Library Association conference in Kearney in October. Let Baker know.

Building: Silhouette lights are partially reinstalled and hopefully will be fully functional by July 4. The upgrade to the lower-level sound system has yet to begin; Baker has been calling regularly about this. Website moved hosting to the Nebraska Library Commission and updating content and functionality will be a work in progress during the next few months.

Budget: The City Administrator and Treasurer are working through budgets for all City departments. Much depends on what comes out of the special session of the Legislature.

Staffing: Joe Starkey's family increased by one this month, with the addition of a healthy baby boy. Joe took some time off to be with the family. Krystyn Harris will end her employment with us at the end of July as she prepares to go to college. For now, we are not replacing her.

Certification: The Library Board was recertified by the Nebraska Library Commission on 6/30/2024 for a three-year period. As a group, you need to earn 20 CE hours by 6/30/2027. Congratulations!

Statistics:

	Last month	Two months prior	Last year
Circulation	8,558	8,135	7,292
Overdrive (SML patrons)	2,072	2,010	1,830
Overdrive (ILL to others)	1,877	1,858	1,582
Collection	55,224	56,319	56,866
Attendance	5,555	5,085	5,665
Computer Use	154	125	110
Wireless Use	4,192	4,330	6,134
Window	173	205	203

**3. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

After discussion, the board voted to retain the current officers as Hill/Chair; Lamberty/Vice-Chair; and Croston/Secretary.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Croston, Secretary