

**SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:00AM

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 8:03 a.m. by Chairman Hill, who highlighted the availability of the Open Meetings Act.

**2. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Programs:

Staff will compile numbers and comments regarding the breakout box activities done over the holiday break and will have them for you next month. Spring programs for children are set to begin January 21 and will run through March. The schedule is the same as this past fall, though children may still join groups as they wish. This semester Concordia students will again help library staff with the after-school programs.

Staff have several adult programs lined up for this spring. Just for Fun Fridays will resume on January 17, line dancing begins January 23, and the other adult programs begin after that. A grant for an artist is in the works, the Arthur Clarke Diversity speaker is in March, a gardening program from the county extension office is scheduled, etc.

This month's book group activities include Young at Heart reading Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson on January 2, Reader's Choice discussing The Cider House Rules by John Irving on January 13, Midday Mysteries reading After the Crash by Michel Bussi for January 21, and Random Reads talking about Saving CeeCee Honeycut by Beth Michaels on January 27. R&R continues to discuss current books read and was scheduled to meet on January 9, but as that conflicted with the funeral of former President Jimmy Carter it was decided to skip meeting this month.

Operation:

Building: Most of the lighting over the drive-up window no longer works and is beyond repair by the Electric Department. A quote to repair them is over \$1,000 so Baker will bring it up to the Seward Library Foundation when they meet later this month.

Computer use: A young patron was recently suspended from using library computers for two weeks following the discovery of inappropriate searches. The decision was not protested by this patron. Staff will stay on top of this to make sure the offense is not repeated. Board members agreed to reinstate computer privileges with the caveat that if another instance of inappropriate behavior occurs, a permanent ban will be enforced in accordance with our policy.

Phone lines: Staff members suggest dropping the second voice phone line that is not often used anymore. This would require a change in our fax number or a move to digital faxing but would save money. No change would be made until decisions were agreed upon as to how faxing would happen. Board members gave consensus to go ahead. Staff will proceed as more details are gathered.

Grant for Board Games: The Seward Foundation gave us several hundred dollars more than we requested, and the Nebraska Library Commission grant was successful as well, so staff will continue working on this project.

Staff Schedule: The spring schedule for staff is nearly the same as the fall; only a few minor changes were requested. Staff have been fantastic at covering hours for Baker in her absence.

Statistics:

	Last month	Two months prior	Last year
Circulation	5,845	6,379	5,907
Overdrive (SML patrons)	1,966	2,014	1,951
Overdrive (ILL to others)	1,514	1,414	2,343
Collection	56,475	56,426	55,537
Attendance	4,320	4,557	3,654
Computer Use	151	126	131
Wireless Use	4,719	4,604	3,689
Window	224	179	214

**3. DISCUSSION OF PRINTING AND FAXING SERVICES**

Discussion of current services offered and associated costs was tabled for a later meeting to include the Library Director.

**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 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Croston, Secretary