

MINUTES

NEUSCHAFER COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD

December 4, 2023

Present: Martha Bailey, Lori Schmidt, Adam Socha, Naomi Peuse (via phone), Amanda D'Arcy and Melissa Krause (Library Director)

Absent: Jaleen Hacklander and Norma Hernández

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm by Bailey.

Director's Report:

- Melissa reported on the LTC grant on November 30th and is nearly done with a full program development action plan. She has been in communication with Playaway and Penworthy who offer kits and systems (which is what the largest chunk of the grant has been allocated towards). May purchase gas cards for delivery volunteers. She received a letter encouraging her to apply to the second round of grant applications, but she is apprehensive to apply with our limited space and her current workload.
- DPI was awarded a grant from Microsoft to provide Microsoft Learn certificates to the public, at no extra cost to schools and libraries. Only 17 libraries in the state will be selected and Melissa has already submitted a request on our behalf. This program will provide patrons with Microsoft Office Specialist and Microsoft Certified Fundamentals certifications - patrons would essentially earn industry-recognized credentials!

The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) "Science Kits for Public Libraries" grant application is open from November 1st to January 16, 2024. The program raises funds for public libraries to make STEM/science kits as easy to check out as a book! Krause expressed this as an opportunity to work with Fremont's STEM Academy as well.

Data Collection - Krause has been working with Chad at OWLS on a materials cost counter/return on investment calculator. South Central Library System has a good system that Krause would like to explore.

Frolic in Fremont - The Friends of the Library and all contributors made it another fantastic fundraiser!

November 2023 Materials Circulation numbers were up by 200 from this time last year. Year to date Circulation is up by 500. Audiobooks and magazines are up as well. D'Arcy wondered when eBooks would be included in OWLS funding formula - a while back, Bradley had said they were phasing this in to be a part of circulation numbers.

Minutes: Bailey moved to approve October 30, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Socha seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Schmidt reported the balances of the following accounts...

Farmer's State Bank - \$20,000.93

Farmer's SuperSaver - \$1,643.66

Premier Donation - \$5,525.03

Premier "Fines and Fees" - \$678.79

Approve Bills and Expenses: D'Arcy made motion to approve bills and expenses. Bailey seconded. Motion carried.

Informal Public Comment: Village President, Bobbi Marks expressed concern over an email regarding donation monies from municipalities. Krause responded that the intention of that email was to clarify how the donation funds should be handled.

Former NCLB President, Judy McGowan, shared development of the Book Club program and how participants initially chipped in to cover food and drink costs. She mentioned that she personally covered the drink cost when there was a difference. The program has since evolved so the library is only responsible for food costs and participants can individually make drink purchases if they choose.

Discuss jeopardized programs budget: Krause stated that she received an email from the Town of Fremont, stating that they would be withholding their donation towards library programs. Village President, Bobbi Marks attended their last meeting and called the handling of the funds into question so they've requested Melissa attend the December meeting to address questions.

Library staff compensation: Due to a lack of time (Friends of the Library meeting immediately followed ours), the NCLB tabled this discussion to take place at an additional meeting before the end of the month. Compensation and finalization of bills to be out on that agenda.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 4:30pm in the Village Hall.

Adjournment: D'Arcy made a motion to adjourn at 5:37 pm, Bailey seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda D'Arcy

