

MINUTES
NEUSCHAFER COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD
FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Present: Martha Bailey, Lori Schmidt, Jaleen Hacklander, Norma Hernández Amanda D'Arcy, Melissa Krause (Library Director)

Absent: Naomi Peuse and Adam Socha

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Bailey.

Approve previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Bailey to approve minutes from NCLB minutes from February 4, 2024, with an edit to the update on the next Friends of the Library meeting date. Seconded by Hacklander. Motion carried.

Director's Report:

- Krause shared that she was invited to participate in Read Across America week at Fremont Elementary on 2/27.
- Battle of the Books: Staff ordered and checked out books for the upper elementary school students of Fremont who will be participating in the competition.
- The Homeschool Science Fair will take place in the gym on Monday, 3/25 from 5:30-6:30pm.
 - 22 students and families are currently registered and the event will be open to the public.
- Summer Reading Program: Krause has scheduled the following events.
 - June 12: The Dragon Training Academy-I
 - June 28: Chad Lewis: Lumberjack Legends & Lore (also Paul Bunyan Day) Krause will reach out the Fremont Historical Society to see if they'd like to partner.
 - June TBD: Working with Waupaca Master Gardeners on a family activity. Krause is brainstorming a plant-your-own-pizza garden.
 - July 30/31: Woodsy Dude: Ages 5-9 survival course and Ages 10-14 survival course
 - DNR State Park Passes - There were a big hit last year. We bought 50 so considering 60 this year, depending on increments. Maybe incorporate folks taking pictures at the park they visit this year?
- Monthly programs - The library continues to host Memory Café, Storytime, Game Club, Tween Book Club, Lunch and Learn, and Fremont Book Club. A Chess Club has also formed on its own!
- Upcoming March Lunch and Learn - Fraud Prevention with Premier Bank
- Circulation numbers - All numbers continue to grow, across the board! Month to date material circulation is up 26% from 2023 to 2024 and total month circulation is up 25%. Renewals are up 20%. Audiobook usage is up 35% in the last year.

Treasurer's Report: Schmidt reported that the balance of the Farmer's State Bank account is \$8,322 41. No interest to report yet since we are still in February.

The programs account at Premier has a balance of \$2,349.49, \$.05 interest. Only one check was written since the last meeting, \$312.70 to Hotel Fremont for Book Club.

Approval of bills and expenses: D'Arcy made a motion to pay February's bills and expenses with a pre approval to pay March's outstanding bills and expenses. Bailey seconded. Motion carried.

Review and approve 2024 DPI Annual Report: Motion by Bailey, seconded by Hacklander to approve the presented DPI report. Motion passed.

Discuss library services and initiatives: Krause shared information on a brand new federal grant that was awarded to the state of Wisconsin for \$107 million, strictly for library and community center projects.

- The Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) Grant
- The grant application has two categories - new construction or renovate/expand an existing structure.
- If awarded, the money would need to be spent by November 30th, 2026
- Application is not live yet, but there is a very short turnaround window to apply
- Krause shared that this would be an amazing opportunity to expand services for the community and would like to reach out to stakeholders to gather support for the grant.

Friends of the Library Update: Friends will be meeting at the Hotel tonight!

Public Input: None.

Next meeting: March 26, 2024 at 4:00pm in the Village Hall.

Adjournment: Bailey made a motion to adjourn at 5:18pm, D'Arcy seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda D'Arcy