

VPL Board Meeting Minutes
Library Board of Trustees-Verona Public Library
500 Silent Street Verona, WI 53593

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Library Community Room

Present: Hopp, Conwell, Huemmer, Ryan, Safarik, Burkart
Guests: Harrison, Strutz
Absent: Cronin, Sohail

Call to order:

Hopp called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Huemmer, seconded by Conwell to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 10/06/2021. Motion carried.

Old Business: *This agenda item was taken out of order to receive input from Youth Services Team Lead Harrison.*

1. Discussion and possible action regarding library response to COVID-19 and library reopening plan:

- Dane County mask mandate is scheduled to expire on November 27. Library will encourage patrons to continue wearing masks, especially in the children's area. Wearing of masks will not be required or enforced.
- Staff members in public-facing positions are expected to wear masks as long as COVID transmission rates for the area are at high or substantial levels. Staff are not required to mask in staff-only areas, but will be asked to respect the wishes of co-workers when using shared spaces. Staff who have been exposed to COVID or are experiencing symptoms of another illness are asked to wear masks.
- In-person events for children and adults will require advance registration. Participant numbers will be limited and seating will be distanced. Those attending will be encouraged to wear masks.
- Virtual events will continue to be offered.

Review and Approval of Invoices:

A motion was made by Huemmer, seconded by Safarik to approve the October 2021 invoices. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

None

City Council Liaison Report:

- Cronin reported by email that the City budget would be presented on November 8. Finalized budget will be adopted at a special meeting on November 15.

Library Director's Report:

- Paperback Romance collection has been re-labeled and shelved separately from other paperbacks for patron ease of use.
- Curbside delivery appointments continue at low levels.
- Wifi hotspots will stop circulating by the end of the calendar year. Holds can no longer be placed on these items.
- Youth Services has hired one part time and one full time staff member to fill open positions.
- Word on the Street 5K is tentatively planned for April 30, 2022, with timing provided by Race Day Events.

New Business:

1. Discussion regarding the library land acknowledgement:

- Board discussed posting the land acknowledgement on the library website. They also recommended a printed statement be placed inside the lobby. A social media post during November for Native American heritage month was also suggested.
- Encouragement was given to connect the formal adoption of the land acknowledgement with an event, such as a presentation by an indigenous storyteller or artist.
- Motion was made by Safarik, seconded by Ryan to approve the prepared land acknowledgement statement with the addition of the wording "with rich heritage" and pending approval by City Council. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the 2022 Library Endowment disbursement:

- The library plans to host a community read during summer 2022. Funds from the Endowment disbursement would be used to purchase copies of the book to give away and to host related programming. The available dollar amount will be known in March 2022.
- Three possible options were presented to the board. Board members decided to have library patrons vote to select the title for the community read.
- Board encourages making the selected book available in audio format and other languages, as possible. A book with a similar theme that is suitable for children will be chosen by youth librarians to include as part of the community read.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Library board approved 12/1/21