

FDL Public Library Board Minutes
January 20, 2022

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: On Thursday, January 20, 2022 in the Midstates Training Room and via Zoom, the regular meeting of the Fond du Lac Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:48 p.m. by Board President, Dusty Krikau. Trustees present: Tiffany Brault, Anne Deacy, Antonio Godfrey, Mel Kolstad, Dusty Krikau, Sharon Simon and Brendan Wood-Taylor. Members absent: Jay Myrechuck. Those also in attendance included Library Director Jon Mark Bolthouse, Assistant Director of Operations Lori Burgess, Administrative Assistant Laurie Moore, Youth Services Coordinator Sarah Davis, Information and Outreach Services Coordinator Alana LaBeaf, Library Technology Coordinator Joshua Cowles, and members of the public Julie Schroeder and Diane Kaczmarczyk.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the December Regular Meeting of the Board. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Simon; second: Wood-Taylor; carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. Input: None.

4. Comments from the Public: Bolthouse mentioned that Julie Schroeder will be installed as a Library board member at the City Council meeting on January 26, 2022. Kaczmarczyk spoke against a mask mandate for patrons. She questioned how effective masks are and also how staff are to be able to enforce a mandate with patrons.

5. Correspondence (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Bank Statement from Seefeld Trust for December 2021

6. Approval of Financial Reports:

A. List of bills paid since the last regular meeting: Motion to approve the bills as presented: Kolstad; second: Wood-Taylor; carried by roll call vote: yes seven (7); noes none (0); absent and not voting one (1).

B. Statement of Accounts: Motion to approve as presented: Kolstad; second: Godfrey; carried by unanimous voice vote.

7. Director's Report:

A. Monthly Library Statistics

* Bolthouse shared that the parking discussion with Dyann Benson went well. There is a possible solution to the parking issue for volunteers and 12 hour pages who do not get a parking permit. She offered up a hang tag system and special spots in the lot where those hang tags can be used. Coordinators seemed to be in favor of the system, but the logistics need to be figured out yet.

* Bolthouse shared that the library will be seeing some ARPA funds from Winnefox; \$3000 towards a few items, including chairs and video conferencing equipment.

* US Bank representatives will be attending the board meeting on February 17th to talk about the Seefeld account.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business:

A. Board Orientation: Reconsidering of Materials: Bolthouse went over the policy. There is a movement happening across the country at this time where people are pushing for the banning of books, especially at the school level. The library has not had any activity on this at this time. Davis shared that the website Book Riot has been keeping tabs on challenges that are happening across the country on a weekly update. There are also challenges happening to programming that is being done at libraries. Wood-Taylor asked if there was a blanket response that board members should be using if they were to get questioned regarding the banning of books. Bolthouse advised that Stepleton could help phrase a response to use when board members or staff are approached. Krikau asked if we have compared our Request for Reconsideration form with the school district, since they have had more recent activity in this area. Bolthouse said we have not, but it would be a good idea to compare to the school district and other libraries. The first step at this point would be to start working on the Collection Development Plan, since the policy is governed by it.

B. Policy Revision: Circulation Policy: Motion to approve the Circulation Policy with the adjustment for renewal of exceptions as stated: Simon; second: Godfrey; carried by unanimous voice vote. Krikau questioned if 3 is the proper maximum for equipment checkouts at one time, if someone is looking to get a “package” of equipment to use for a specific purpose. Bolthouse said they have reviewed it and feel that number is sufficient. Wood-Taylor questioned if it’s possible to have more time for a DVD series. Burgess explained that if there are no holds on an item, patrons can call and renew. If after that renewal time there are still no holds, a patron can stop in person and staff can renew for an additional checkout period. Krikau mentioned that the exceptions that are listed in item 3) d. of the policy do not state that there is optional renewal, and mentioned that should be added to the policy. This change will be made to those exceptions.

C. Mask policy for patrons consideration: Bolthouse stated that he would like the board to consider reviewing the optional masking policy for patrons. He shared results from a survey Bolthouse sent out to staff where over 50% of the staff are in favor of leaving the masking policy for patrons as recommended, not required. He mentioned that staff have concerns regarding the issues with policing the patrons with this issue. Bolthouse shared that he is in favor at this time of leaving the policy as recommended and just finding better ways of getting patrons to wear masks. Some things that may help would be to place masks at the entrance doors and changing the staff response to patrons who ask about masking, stating that “we’d appreciate if you’d wear a mask”. Wood-Taylor feels a requirement would bring about a more negative culture in the library. Kolstad would like it to be strongly recommended with harsher verbiage on the signs in the library. She also mentioned having an issue with masking at her last gallery reception and a staff member not stating that the reception is a library event that requires masking. Brault questioned the masking issue that was stated by a staff member that happened at a paint program. Bolthouse shared that the “mask mandatory” verbiage was missing on the information that was sent out for this program, which was why they had issues. Brault also questioned if staff would feel comfortable getting another staff member to help enforce the masks if they felt uncomfortable doing it themselves. Krikau stated that the signs should state “For the safety of our staff and others, please wear a mask.” She also feels that if a staff member feels unsafe, they should have the option to go and ask a patron to please wear a mask; they just are not able to force them to wear one. Wood-Taylor also feels that verbiage should be added to the masking signs stating that masks are required for all in person library events. Krikau asked Bolthouse if he had spoken with the health department about mandatory masking. He stated he spoke with some of the staff and they just stated some of the best ways to help stop the spread, but didn’t say anything in regards to mandatory masking. Wood-Taylor also feels it would be a good idea to use positive verbiage on signs, for example “Thank you for wearing a mask.”

10. Other:

A. None.

11. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Simon; second: Godfrey. Meeting was adjourned by Board President Dusty Krikau at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Deacy
Secretary