

FDL Public Library Board Minutes **January 16, 2025**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: On Thursday, January 16, 2025, in the Community Room and via Zoom, the regular meeting of the Fond du Lac Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Board President, Dusty Krikau. Trustees present: Dusty Krikau, Jay Myrechuck, Julie Schroeder, Sharon Simon and Brendan Wood-Taylor. Members absent: Tiffany Brault, Rebekah Gary, Emily Hayes and Lauren Herlache. Those also in attendance included Library Director Jon Mark Bolthouse, Assistant Director of Operations Lori Burgess, Youth Services Coordinator Sarah Davis, Information Services and Administrative Assistant Laurie Moore.

2. Approval of Minutes:

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

3. Comments from the Public: Members of the public in attendance: Mary Jagdfeld, Nan McGhee, Mary Austin and Keywon Brown. Jagdfeld, McGhee and Austin (members of the Afternoon Delight Book Club) shared their concerns about the changes to the library book clubs. They had concerns about how the clubs are no longer considered a library book club, but instead just a book club that meets at the library. They felt communication was lacking and were wondering why they had no input. Concerns were shared about no longer being visible on the library calendar; wondering how they can attract new members. Also, the process of having one person check out all the books and be responsible for all the books for the club was a concern to them. They would like to be allowed to have the members of the club check out their books individually. Bolthouse did share that a change is being made to allow them to check out individually instead of the full kit. The group also voiced that they would like rooms to be regularly scheduled for them to use.

* Schroeder arrived at 4:48 and a quorum was declared. *

Bolthouse also shared one of the biggest reasons for the change is the staff time involved for library book clubs. Krikau thanked them for coming and sharing their concerns and stated no action can happen at this meeting, but there will be follow-up done with staff on the changes.

Krikau welcomed Keywon Brown to the meeting. He introduced himself and spoke of his interest in joining the library board.

4. Correspondence (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Bank Statement from Seefeld Trust for December

5. Approval of Financial Reports:

A. List of bills paid since the last regular meeting: Motion to approve the bills as presented: Simon; second: Wood-Taylor; carried by roll call vote: yes five (5); noes none (0); absent and not voting four (4).

B. Statement of Accounts: Motion to approve as presented: Myrechuck; second: Wood-Taylor; carried by unanimous voice vote.

6. Director's Report:

A. Monthly Library Statistics:

* Bolthouse shared that the roof on Chapter 52 has been completed.

* There are no more updates on the solar project. Bolthouse reached out to the contractor and found out that we have a new project manager. We hope to have more details within the next week.

* Bolthouse pointed out that Chapter 52 is in the red for 2024. He plans to discuss with staff how to remedy this for the future. Schroeder asked if the author events seem to bring in traffic, and Bolthouse said they do. Krikau inquired how they

can help out local authors. Bolthouse shared that if anyone knows of an author, to have them speak with library staff and fill out an application. The details and application are also available on the website's Chapter 52 section.

* Bolthouse pointed out that the circulation at the Buechel Branch is down, even when considering the closure from the move. He plans to review what can be done out there to help increase that; for example more advertising or partnerships with local businesses. Simon asked if there has been any feedback since the move about people that are unhappy. Burgess shared that there were a few concerns from patrons about the parking in the very beginning, but she has not heard anything since then.

* Krikau requested to see more information on the monthly report about the Idea Studio. There was also a request to discuss at the next library board meeting what the board members would like to see included in monthly reports.

* Davis gave a shout out to the upcoming Bluey program on February 22nd. There will be 2 sessions; 10:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 3:00. She is looking for board volunteers for this event. They hope to include bingo this year if there are enough volunteers to support that. Bolthouse will send out an email with the upcoming events that we are looking for library board volunteers for.

7. Old Business:

A. None

8. New Business:

A. None

9. Other: The board spoke regarding the book club concerns from the public. Bolthouse shared how the book clubs were originally structured as a private club with no library staff attending, so the decision was made to refigure them. Burgess shared how they are working on a change to the checkout process from a book club kit to a book club title, so individuals can check out their own books and not be responsible for all the copies for the club. Burgess also spoke about how the club was listed on the library calendar, but if a new member would come, there would be no books for them to check out as the clubs would take all the books in the kit, even if all 10 copies were not needed. Simon asked if there were any policies or procedures for book clubs and Bolthouse said there were none. Krikau voiced that we should allow the past book clubs to try to meet our concerns. Wood-Taylor asked why the change was made, and Burgess shared that they were more of a closed program, even they it was posted as an open group on the calendar. Simon asked how many clubs there were and how much staff time was spent on them; does it take their time away from other things. Burgess shared that there were 5 clubs, and Bolthouse stated there is time behind the scenes to get the book clubs materials ready. Burgess did share that we are looking at book discussions now that would be led by a staff member, and patrons would get the copy of the book on their own and join. Simon feels some damage control needs to be done, and Bolthouse should reach out to them as the director. Krikau also suggested Bolthouse to stop in to the club's meetings. Krikau would like to see the book club discussion as an agenda item next month.

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Simon; second: Myrechuck; carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting was adjourned by board president Dusty Krikau at 5:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Moore
Administrative Assistant