

FDL Public Library Board Minutes

November 21, 2024

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: On Thursday, November 21, 2024, 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 4:31 p.m. by Board President, Dusty Krikau. Trustees present: Tiffany Brault, Rebekah Gary, Emily Hayes, Lauren Herlache, Dusty Krikau, Jay Myrechuck, Julie Schroeder, Sharon Simon and Brendan Wood-Taylor. Members absent: none. Those also in attendance included Library Director Jon Mark Bolthouse, Assistant Director of Operations Lori Burgess, Youth Services Coordinator Sarah Davis, Information Services and Outreach Coordinator Melanie Kearn, and Administrative Assistant Laurie Moore.

* 4:33 Schroeder arrived.

2. Approval of Minutes:

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

3. Comments from the Public: Bolthouse shared a thank you card from Emily Nett of Envision Greater Fond du Lac.

4. Correspondence (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Bank Statement from Seefeld Trust for October

5. Approval of Financial Reports:

A. List of bills paid since the last regular meeting: Motion to approve the bills as presented: Hayes; second: Brault; carried by roll call vote: yes eight (8); noes none (0); absent and not voting none (0); abstention from Schroeder. Krikau questioned the bill for website work. Bolthouse said that he will discuss this in his director's report.

B. Statement of Accounts: Motion to approve as presented: Simon; second: Myrechuck; carried by unanimous voice vote; abstention from Schroeder.

6. Director's Report:

A. Monthly Library Statistics:

* Bolthouse shared that there is no new news on the solar project at this time.

* Chapter 52 roof will start on Monday, November 25th. There will only be a slight disruption for staff when the wires are being run.

* The coordinators are in the process of working a redesign of the current website. Stacks is being replaced. Blue Door Consulting was hired to redesign and host the website.

* The Friends have done an amazing job on the silent auction. It starts on Saturday November 23rd at Noon and will end on December 14th. There should not be any restrictions on the board being allowed to bid on items.

* Bolthouse shared that the WLA conference was good and included some legislative updates. Also, there was a major theme around AI and how it will affect the library and possible future policies around AI. The library may look at future programs regarding the use of AI (ex: ChatGPT). Krikau also mentioned that a series in the future regarding the ethics around AI, data integrity and the environmental impact of AI. Herlache suggested possibly reaching out to a teacher from North Fond du Lac who is very knowledgeable on AI.

* Brault questioned the comment regarding equipment theft in Burgess's report. Burgess shared that some of the smaller equipment in the smaller boxes has disappeared. The security tags don't fit on some of the equipment itself, so Kearn suggested a board with pictures of some of the smaller and more expensive equipment for patrons to take to the checkout and retrieve and checkout the item.

* Herlache questioned what BWB stood for in the Chapter 52 quarterly statement. Bolthouse shared that it is commission we receive from Better World Books, for items not sold at Chapter 52.

* Brault thanked Davis for all the detail in her report. She spoke about Challenge Days and shared that she would love to see more staff and board members be a part of that program in the future.

* Krikau shared that she likes the teen collaboration with the Idea Studio.

* Herlache commented on the connection with the new county jail. Davis shared that some members from the Literacy Coalition spoke at a public forum and November 21st, and it sounds like they hope to pursue the suggestions.

*Krikau commented on the Design Lab's outreach to Maplewood Commons and the desire to be able to someone offer programs closer to their location. She wondered if there is potential to utilize the Boys and Girls club van to help with transportation.

7. Old Business:

A. Behavior Policy Revisions: Motion to approve the Behavior Policy with revisions made to remove the mention of Hope on the Block in 1.e., strike the excessive baggage line in 1.p. and change 1.aa. to bulk distribution of food: Simon; second: Myrechuck; carried by unanimous voice vote. The addition of the food distribution comes from an individual who is bringing in lots of food regularly to distribute to patrons. Bolthouse feels it is a hygiene issue allowing that, along with a liability issue as the library is allowing the food to be distributed. Brault questioned if the individual has been talked to about this issue at all, and Bolthouse shared that he has not been spoken to yet. He believes that the individual will be heading over to Advocap now with the opening of their Opportunity Center. Burgess shared that another individual contacted the library requesting a table to hand out food, but they ended up setting up their own table outdoors. Krikau suggested adding "bulk distribution of food" to line 1.a.a.

Bolthouse shared that not every staff member is on board with the addition of not allowing excessive baggage. Simon questioned if excessive baggage and wagons has become an issue in the library. Bolthouse shared that it depends on the day, but has caused an issue with access to some materials. Hayes questioned how we approach this without targeting specific groups. Gary suggested allowing bags/belongings but not items with wheels. Brault asked if this is being modeled after another library. Bolthouse shared that Oshkosh and Madison have similar policies. Brault inquired on who decides what would be considered excessive. Bolthouse feels that is decided by stating that the items must be able to be carried on one's person. Schroeder feels that the line regarding coat racks for personal items may become an issue with this addition. Burgess shared that the warming shelter having a limit on items allowed has helped patrons find other places to keep their personal belongings. Hayes asked what type of policy would follow our mission and Krikau shared that #1 on our strategic plan is to be radically welcoming. Myrechuck feels the part about the wheeled carts if fine, but the line regarding excessive baggage should be removed. Herlache suggested possibly adding at the end of 1.p. the reason for this policy (i.e. in order to not impede on access to materials). Hayes noted that other policies don't explain why we have the policy, so we should not list the reasoning.

* Hayes left at 5:28 pm.

B. Study Room Policy: Motion to approve the Study Room policy with revisions made to split line item #6 into 2 separate items and add to the end of line item #5 "as referenced in the Behavior Policy": Simon; second: Schroeder; carried by unanimous voice vote.

8. New Business:

A. None.

9. Other: None.

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Myrechuck; second: Simon; carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting was adjourned by board president Dusty Krikau at 5:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Hayes
Secretary