

FDL Public Library Board Minutes
July 20, 2023

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: On Thursday, July 20, 2023 in the McLane Meeting Room and via Zoom, the regular meeting of the Fond du Lac Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Board President, Dusty Krikau. Trustees present: Tiffany Brault, Anne Deacy, Rebekah Gary, Antonio Godfrey, Dusty Krikau, Jay Myrechuck, Martin Rudd, 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 Service Coordinator Sarah Davis and Administrative Assistant Laurie Moore.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the June Regular Meeting of the Board. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Simon; second: Schroeder; carried by unanimous voice vote; abstention from Deacy.

3. Input: None.

4. Comments from the Public: None.

5. Correspondence (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Bank Statement from Seefeld Trust for June.

6. Approval of Financial Reports:

A. List of bills paid since the last regular meeting: Motion to approve the bills as presented: Simon; second: Gary; carried by roll call vote: yes nine (9); noes none (0); absent and not voting one (1).

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

* Godfrey arrived at 4:37 pm. *

7. Director's Report:

A. Monthly Library Statistics

* Bolthouse shared that the summer reading program numbers are down a bit, but active participation has increased.

* Bolthouse shared that insurance won't cover the cost to repair the collapsed pipe that caused the flooding in the lower level in April. The city looks at it as a maintenance cost. Deacy questioned if the cost should be split with Thelma. Bolthouse said that it is actually in front of the Elks Club building. He will discuss more with Tricia Davi at city hall about where the funds should come from to pay for the repairs. Bolthouse has Mies Plumbing coming to check into getting us a quote for repairs. He is concerned about how this may affect Thelma's Thursday night concerts, but it is more important to get the repairs done.

* No new news to share on the solar project.

* Bolthouse talked about the GIS information from the city and shared some results from that study. Simon commented that it would maybe be helpful to get GIS information from the county. Wood Taylor asked if there is a way to break out the information for who uses the Buechel Branch.

* Krikau asked about our Kanopy usage and if we are on the right track to spend what was estimated for a year. Bolthouse shared that he thinks we are slightly higher than the estimated usage. Schroeder questioned why if there is higher usage that it could be cheaper for a month. Burgess shared that could happen because the cost depends on what they are streaming. Myrechuck asked about short films costing the same credit as a full length film. Bolthouse will check into that.

* Krikau asked if the partnership is going well with Thelma for the “Bad Art Night” program. Bolthouse shared that it is going well and we hope to partner more in the future.

* Gary asked if there is anything that the library can do to show appreciation to the staff that are filling in with the staff shortage right now, like possibly gift cards. Bolthouse will check into it with human resources.

8. Old Business:

A. Reconsideration of Materials Policy: Motion to approve the Reconsideration of Materials policy as presented: Schroeder; second: Gary; carried by unanimous voice vote. Krikau noted that the change in “service area” wording is from the county. Schroeder asked if the library would purchase another copy of challenged material. Bolthouse shared that that is covered in the procedures that we would if needed to keep a copy on hand or copies for the board to review.

9. New Business:

A. Buechel Branch Update: Bolthouse shared that he received an email from Johnson Crossing landlords that moving the Buechel Branch to another storefront is pretty much a done deal. The space that we would need to move to would be located between Fresh Fit and GNC. They would build out the space to the library’s specification, as it is now. Dyann Benson is taking the lead on the negotiations for the new space. A couple of questions that have arose are, will they build in a book drop, and will they move the custom desk to the new space. Brault questioned what the rent would be for the bigger space if it was not adjusted to match our current size. Bolthouse shared that he has asked that question, but he has not received a response yet. He did state that having a bigger space doesn’t make us any additional funds like a regular retail business. Gary asked if we could possibly use a larger space to work with local artists to sell their artwork. The board feels the new space would be a better location for increased foot traffic. Krikau questioned having a storytime at the location with the possibility of a meeting space. Davis said that would require more staff, which we currently cannot do. Bolthouse also pointed out that even with a new location, there would still be limited hours. Simon asked when the library will know more details. Bolthouse is hoping within the next week. Krikau suggested the possibility of having a Chapter 52 location there. Bolthouse shared he would have to check if the lease would allow that. Schroeder likes the idea of a designated teen area, but Davis pointed out that that could require more staffing, but questioned if one staff member could watch the whole space.

* Rudd left at 5:21. *

Schroeder asked if the hours we are open out there have been reviewed lately. Bolthouse and Burgess shared that they have tried varying hours at that location, and decided on the consistent hours we are at now to make it easier for patrons to remember when we are open. Multiple board members pointed out that having a Grand Reopening after the move may help draw patrons with some advertising. Krikau asked what is needed from the board today. Bolthouse shared that this was just more informative at this point, but if there were to be an increase in rent, that would need to come for the board’s approval.

10. Other: Krikau questioned when the slate of officers happens and asked if we should be doing that now. The plan is to do the slate of officers and vote on the officers at the August board meeting. Krikau also mentioned that she will be meeting with Bolthouse soon to do his review.

11. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Schroeder; second: Simon. Meeting was adjourned by Board President Dusty Krikau at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Deacy
Secretary