

**FDL Public Library Board Minutes**  
**September 16, 2021**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: On Thursday, September 16, 2021 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 4:31 p.m. by Board President, Mel Kolstad. Trustees present: Tiffany Brault, Anne Deacy, Mel Kolstad, Dusty Krikau, Jerry Letcher, Jay Myrechuck, Sharon Simon and Brendan Wood-Taylor. Members absent: Marilyn Averbeck. Those also in attendance included Library Director Jon Mark Bolthouse, Administrative Assistant Laurie Moore, Assistant Director for Operations Lori Burgess and Information and Outreach Services Coordinator Alana LaBeaf.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the July Regular Meeting of the Board. Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Krikau; second: Letcher; carried by unanimous voice vote.

4:33 Myrechuck arrived.

3. Input: None.

4. Comments from the Public: None.

5. Correspondence (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Bank Statement from Seefeld Trust for July and August 2021

6. Approval of Financial Reports:

A. List of bills paid since the last regular meeting: Motion to approve the bills as presented: Deacy; second: Wood-Taylor; carried by roll call vote: yes eight (8); noes none (0); absent and not voting one (1).

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

7. Director's Report:

A. Monthly Library Statistics

\* Bolthouse informed the Board that the budget presentation to City Council went well. We are seeing an increase from the City along with the roof being included in the capital improvement plan.

\* Lighting project is moving forward. Having Russ from City Hall work on the project works out well for the Library as the project can be done piece-work and there is no need for a sealed bid for the labor on the project.

\* The board is in agreement that their children should not be allowed to win prizes for library programs.

\* Krikau questioned if Bolthouse plans to do a monthly update on the progress of the strategic plan. The update is being pushed back a month, but he is hoping to have another meeting to compile the information soon.

\* Krikau asked about professional development for staff. It seems that Children's is far less than Reference. Bolthouse explained that there are less professional staff in that department, but he is going to check into it.

8. Old Business:

A. Nominating Committee: Motion to approve the new officers as listed below: Letcher; second: Myrechuck; carried by unanimous voice vote.

President – Dusty Krikau

Vice President – Brendan Wood-Taylor

Secretary – Anne Deacy

Treasurer – Mel Kolstad

## 9. New Business:

A. Mask Policy for In-Person Programs: The Library plans to experiment in October with some in-person programming. The number of in-person attendees would be limited and we would do hybrid with virtual attendance when possible. Simon asked if there would still be social distancing in place, and it was confirmed by Bolthouse that there would be. Motion to approve the mask policy for in-person programs moving forward: Kolstad; second: Wood-Taylor; carried by unanimous voice vote.

B. Naming Rights Policy: Bolthouse shared with the board that the Library does not currently have a naming rights policy, so he'd like to put one in place. Krikau had some suggestions to the one Bolthouse brought for approval, so he will work on the policy some more and bring back to approval at the next meeting.

C. Revision of Meeting Room Policy: The policy presented changes the fee structure for meeting rooms. Nonprofit bookings would now be charged a \$10 fee, and private bookings would be charged \$50 for four hours and an additional \$50 for anything over 4 hours. Also, the McLane Meeting Room would be used for commercial purposes, but not the Midstates Training Room. Motion to approve the revisions to the meeting room policy: Kolstad; second: Wood-Taylor; carried by unanimous voice vote.

D. Financial request of the Library: Community member Lorraine Jones and a member from Ebony Vision have been working with Alana LaBeaf on a proposal for Black History Month. They are looking to do a catered event for 100 people that the Library would help pay for. It would be held at the YMCA. They are looking for \$2,000 from the Library. Kolstad questioned if they came to the Library for the funds because the Library said they would help with Black History Month as they have in the past? Would it be possible to do displays and programs using our resources as we have in the past? Would this open us up to other groups looking to have the Library fund their programs? Possibly it would be better to look at helping them find a way to get donations to help fund the event. Bolthouse agreed that helping them fund other funding would be a possibility. Wood-Taylor questioned what the mission of the dinner would be. LaBeaf said that she believes the connection to the Library is due to us not having anything on the calendar this past year for programs for Black History Month. Wood-Taylor questioned who the 100 people in attendance would be. LaBeaf said they plan to send invites to the governor and other prominent black history speakers, along with the Library board and others. Kolstad questioned if this is something the Friends could help pay for. Simon agrees that finding help from someone in the community is a good idea. She supports what they are doing, but does not feel the Library can fund it. Krikau expressed that having a meeting with the group to discuss how to ask the community for donations would be a good idea, but offering to handle it for them by writing letters is not a good idea to offer to just one group. Simon suggested having them check with Fond du Lac Foundation for any grants that may be available. Offering up staff and resources at the event like we do at other events would be a good idea.

E. Discussion of Fine Free Libraries: Bolthouse shared how Brault had brought this topic up at the City Council meeting. Simon questioned how much we normally collect in a year from fines. Bolthouse shared that it's usually around \$50,000 on a normal year. Simon questioned what the cost of collecting that fine money is. Bolthouse has not figured that, but believes it is probably more than we bring in in a year. Simon said that if we decided to go fine free, and it seems like books are not being returned, we could always put fines back in place. Brault feels having fines in place becomes an equity issue with patrons who have fines and cannot use the library, or people who don't use the library due to concerns of accruing fines. Myrechuck agrees. Wood-Taylor questioned how it works when patrons don't return materials in this situation. Bolthouse explained that there would still be a fee for materials not returned after a certain time. They are considered lost materials then and are charged a replacement fee. Bolthouse shared that he is already working on weaning us off of fine money in the budget. The board agrees that moving towards fine free in the future is a good idea. Krikau suggested putting it on next month's agenda to discuss this in more detail. The source for the map that was shared in the document is [endlibraryfines.info](http://endlibraryfines.info). The website also contains other useful information on going fine free.

## 10. Other:

A. None. Krikau questioned if there were any potential board members. Bolthouse shared that he is working on filling the vacancy on the board.

11. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Letcher; second: Myrechuck; carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting was adjourned by Board President Dusty Krikau at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Deacy  
Secretary