

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2023; 4:30 p.m.

Chairperson Melissa Bonorden called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Austin Public Library.

PRESENT: Melissa Bonorden, Gema Alvarado-Guerrero, Kristi Beckman, Sue Grove, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Stephanie Postma

ALSO PRESENT: Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff, Jeff Austin

ABSENT: Jwokamer Debock (with notice), Shannon Lysne,

AGENDA:

Chair Melissa proposed the agenda be amended to move item IX, Citizen's Comments, to the beginning of the meeting (ahead of item II, Approval of April Minutes), and add consideration of the Gifts Report to the items to be reviewed and voted upon with item III, Approval of April 2023 Expenditures. Gema Alvarado-Guerrero moved to approve the agenda with the proposed changes; Stephanie Postma seconded. Motion carried.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

The following citizens were present at the meeting and each spoke in support of a request to cancel the planned library program, scheduled for July 27, 2023, Drag Queen Story Time.

- Ed Brady, 600A 25th Avenue NW, Austin, MN
- Richard Schneider, 1506 3rd Ave NW, Austin, MN
- Mike Billat, 602 13th St NE, Austin, MN
- Sam Brunton, 2206 14th St SW, Austin, MN
- Colleen Brunton, 2206 14th St SW, Austin, MN
- Barry Magnusen, 5375 295th St, Austin, MN
- Kathy Howard, 603 11th Ave SW, Austin, MN
- Dale Christianson, 509 10th St SW, Austin, MN
- Katie Troe, 2706 9th Ave SW, Austin, MN
- MaryAnn Bush, 2205 14th St SW, Austin, MN

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Nitaya Jandragholica, seconded by Ted Hinchcliffe, to approve the April 10, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:

A motion was made by Ted Hinchcliffe to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for April 2023. Sue Grove seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Kristi Beckman moved to approved the updated Gifts Report; Stephanie Postma seconded. Motion carried.

SELCO REPORT:

Sue Grove had nothing new to report, as there has not been a meeting of the SELCO board or committees since her last report. Julie Clinefelter advised she discussed appointment of a new Mower County representative with County Administrator Trish Harren, with the end of Sue Grove's term coming up.

CITY/COUNTY LIAISON REPORTS:

There was not a City Council liaison report.

The County Board of Commissioners liaison was not present.

REVIEW AND APPROVE LIBRARY'S MEETING ROOM POLICY:

Julie Clinefelter proposed no changes to the Meeting Room Policy, and noted the minor changes to the

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

Julie Clinefelter provided a written report prior to the board meeting, and discussed the following items:

2022 Annual Report to the Minnesota Department of Education:

Julie advised the report had been completed and submitted to the State prior to the deadline, and provided the report for review by the board, noting the data showed no unexpected changes to the state of the library in

comparison to 2021. Stephanie Postma moved to accept and approve the 2022 Annual Report as presented. Ted Hinchcliffe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Reopening with new hours:

Julie Clinefelter advised the current open hours are going well, and patrons and staff have provided positive feedback about the new spaces and changes to workflow with the remodeled service desk.

Networking and Programs:

Julie reported her attendance at meetings of the Friends of the Library board and the Floral Club, noting the Floral Club will meet at the library, starting with the 2023-2024 program year. She said the Friends' Book Sale preliminary revenue was close to the amount from last spring, but a final number is not yet available. In addition, Julie advised the Rotary recently held a meeting at the library and had tour of the new areas.

Julie attended an adult story time program event in LaCrescent and is exploring options for holding a similar event in Austin. She also stated the Austin Page Turners event on April 27 was a success, with over 60 in attendance, and Youth Services Librarian Salie Olson's self-directed "Silly Eggs" program for kids had over 400 uses. In addition, Julie noted the Tech Tutor times have started with two two-hour times scheduled each week, along with times by appointment, as the Technology Coordinator, Eric Christians, works toward establishing the best times to provide the service for patrons.

Julie also advised she and the fundraising committee are wrapping up plans for the May 10 "Passport to Project 25" event.

Construction Update:

Director Clinefelter advised the construction projects are on track, with doors arriving this month (originally expected in June-July), and the bulk of the work should be completed by the end of May. Julie noted library staff are working to procure furniture and signage for the new areas, and considering updates to the meeting room fee structure.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Stephanie Postma inquired about the status of the library hotspot program. Julie advised the library's 160 devices are all checked out, and Austin Aspires came and picked up the rest of their 100 devices, so all 260 are out in the community. Julie notes she anticipates requesting funding for the same number of hotspots for the 2024 grant year.

Ted Hinchcliffe inquired about the new Privacy/Zoom Room as to a plan to keep the laptop safe and clean. Clinefelter advised the Blandin grant used to purchase the equipment for the room included money for a Deep Freeze software license for all three laptops available in town, and that software wipes the data after each use.

Kristi Beckman commented on the student poetry night, which was cosponsored by the Friends of the Library was really great and a good experience for the students.

In response to Citizen Comments, Melissa Bonorden advised there would be no discussion at this meeting regarding the programming request, as the item was not on the agenda

ADJOURNMENT:

Ted Hinchcliffe moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m.; Sue Grove seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Steinhoff, Recording Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, June 12, 2023, 4:30 p.m.