



beloit public library

Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, WI 53511

1. Call to order and roll call – President Diane Lichtenstein called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. Members present: Diane Lichtenstein, John Watrous, Martin Densch, David Sowl, Lisa Berrones, Angela Moore, Clinton Anderson, and Maribeth Miller (4:07 – 5:00). Members Absent: Shelly Cronin. Also present: Library Director Nick Dimassis and Library Business Manager, Jennifer Laatz.
2. Approval of the February 21, 2018 Library Board minutes. Martin Densch noted one needed correction to the wording in 6e. David Sowl moved to approve the minutes as corrected. John Watrous seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (7-0).**
3. Public comment – Cathy Erickson, 506 S. Elk Dr., Beloit Township spoke on concerns about the direction in which the library seems to be going. Vick Hahn, Adult Services Staff Member, W5290 Wandawega Dr., Elkhorn, WI spoke on concerns of the changes in the service model at BPL and the effect on staff.

(President Diane Lichtenstein moved Items 5-6 as next on the agenda with Library Director Report to be last on the agenda)

4. Library Director Report – Nick Dimassis prepared a written Library Director’s Report detailing most of the report. Following are additional comments:
 - As a follow up to Library Legislative Day, and to keep the surge going for Wisconsin libraries, the LD&L committee worked to highlight libraries in “The Municipality”, and the Wisconsin Counties Magazine did a feature article on Beloit Public Library in February.
 - Blackhawk Technical College recently announced that they were moving out of the Eclipse Center and wanted to push their classes throughout the community. They reached out to the Library as a potential partner with the hopes of offering GED and other educational classes. This would be in alignment with the Stateline Literacy Council offerings at the Library. Workforce Development also inquired about our spaces. Conversations will include the resources that BTC can bring to the partnership.
 - Best Beloit Model – Nick recapped the financial position of the library. The budget allocation from the City of Beloit has remained flat for several years while benefit and vendor expenses keep increasing. The library has had the luxury of a reserve fund that

Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees

March 21, 2018, Approved April 18, 2018

“Making a great city even greater”

built over several years due to the library director position being vacant. Talks have always included the Library spending down the reserve fund with the City to increase allocations. The City is now in a position that does not allow for additional funds to the library. The City is facing many of the same decisions; making position changes, leaving positions open. In 2015, we attended a WLA conference session on the service model at Cedar Rapids Public Library. Nine months later, in 2016, the management team visited Cedar Rapids Public Library to see the service floor model first hand. Next step was the beginning of the Best Beloit Model in spring of 2017. The City of Beloit approved \$50,000 in CIP dollars for the physical changes to the building. We have kept positions open over the past few months. With the new service floor model, we feel we will be able to realize \$50K - \$70K in savings. The new model is a more interactive service model.

5. Reports –

- a. Foundation – Derek Hahn, BMO Harris Bank Financial Advisor, presented the 2017 annual report on the investment account. In October of 2017, the board moved their investments to a lower fee mutual fund. The board considered a funding request for an additional sign on the front of the building. No decision has been made. Next meeting is April 11, 2018.
- b. FABL – FABL annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 pm. Guest speaker is Ken and Barb Wardius. Ken is the author of the book “Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide”. Slate of officers is Margie Bertholomey, President; Sarah Smith, Vice President; Pat Blum, Treasurer; and Karen Arft, Secretary. Next meeting is May 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm.
- c. Arrowhead Library System (ALS) – Maribeth Miller reported that 20,000 items shifted between Arrowhead Library System and Lakeshores Library System in the month of February now that we are on the same catalog. The county does have a plan if the delivery traffic keeps increasing that will keep things flowing smoothly while staying within budget. Hoopla stats are increasing now that they are more visible on the catalog. The Public Library Standards Revision (PLSR) process is wrapping up and a report is being sent on to the steering committee who will make a final report to the Department of Public Instruction. Currently there are no more LSTA grant dollars in the pipeline.
- d. Budget Committee – No report. Meeting scheduled for April 11.
- e. Strategic Plan Committee – The full committee met today. We discussed research that the library has in hand and discussed how we can reach out to those we don't currently reach resulting in the addition of a focal area...To identify and reach out to underserved populations.
- f. Personnel Committee – The committee is changing the rubric used to evaluate the library director and will be meeting for the 1st quarter review.

6. Action Items:

- a. Support to explore installing a sign on the east facing side of the building – Maribeth Miller moved to approve support for the Beloit Public Library Foundation to continue to explore installing a sign on the east side of the building. Martin Densch seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (7-1)** with David Sowl voting against.
 - b. Monthly financial report and approval of Library bills – Maribeth Miller moved to approve the payment of the bills on the library warrant in the amount of \$23,067.57 for the library and \$4,605.55 for the Blender and the recurring expenses of \$125,003.13 for the library and \$10,617.85 for the Blender. Johns Watrous seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (8-0).**
7. Trustee Comments – Martin Densch noted that representatives from Blackhawk Technical College are presenting at Rotary on April 3.
8. Motion to adjourn – John Watrous moved to adjourn the meeting. David Sowl seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Submitted by:
Jennifer Laatz, Business Manager