



# beloit public library

Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, WI 53511

1. Call to order and roll call – President Marty Densch called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.  
Members present: Martin Densch, Maribeth Miller, Clinton Anderson, Lisa Berrones, Diane Lichtenstein, Angela Moore, Nora Gard (dep. 4:50 PM), and David Sowl. Members Absent: John Watrous. Also present: Library Director Nick Dimassis and Library Leadership Team – Jennifer Laatz, Jeni Schomber, Wyatt Ditzler, Kristi Helmkamp, and Amy Mitchell.
2. Approval of September 19, 2018 Library Board Minutes – Diane Lichtenstein moved to approve the September 19, 2018 Library Board meeting minutes as presented. Angela Moore seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (8-0).**
3. Public Comment – None.
4. Library Director Report – Nick Dimassis prepared a written Library Director’s Report detailing the report. Additional comments as follows:
  - The library is hosting the Rotary Club meetings October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 27<sup>th</sup>. The city is repairing the roof on the building requiring the relocation of the regular meetings during this timeframe. The Rotary has scheduled 4 Wisconsin Cabinet members to speak at the Rotary meetings in November. We are working on PR to open these speaking events up to the public.
  - We have a WISE worker at the welcome desk now. Alexis White is working the welcome desk and directing our patrons as well as notifying our educational partners of their clients.
  - We have some employees leaving the library and the Blender Café. Alicia is one of our Library Service Specialists and Jasmine and Cindy are Blender Team Members. We have hired Amanda for the Library Service Specialist position. She is in her second year of her MLIS studies at UW-Milwaukee and will be graduating in May. We have another Library Service Specialist, Karla, starting at the end of October. In addition, Rodneisha and Arianna have started in the Blender Café. We welcome all of these new hires to the Library and Blender Café and thank Alicia, Jasmine, and Cindy for all they have done in their time here at the Library and Blender.
5. Reports –
  - a. Foundation – Diane Lichtenstein reported that the Foundation board finalized their annual appeal letter and will have those out soon. Next meeting is November 14, 2018.

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*“Making a great city even greater”*

- b. FABL – No report. Next meeting is November 14, 2018.
- c. Arrowhead Library System (ALS) – Maribeth Miller reported that the meeting was routine. Every municipality received an exemption letter, which is routine business each year. Continuing education opportunities for ALS members through Lakeshores was approved. The Annual Trustee Appreciation Event is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> in Lake Geneva. Maribeth will send the information to Jennifer to pass along to the Board.
- d. Budget Committee – Committee did not meet.
- e. Strategic Plan Committee – Committee did not meet.
- f. Personnel Committee – Committee did not meet.
- g. Blender Café – Nick Dimassis reported that we have 2 new students Arianna and Rodneisha while Jasmine and Cindy are leaving. We are finding that the morning hours are difficult to fill with students. They seem to be more available 11:00 and after. Looking at getting another adult in the morning with students covering from 11:00 on. Catering is our growth area and this adult will help with growing this area. We are looking into the numbers for this. Marty Densch mentioned that staff has charted a course for the Blender and we agreed to revisit at some future date. We will let it run for a while, see its trajectory and evaluate on a month-to-month basis. Included in the Blender report is the lease payments received from our educational partners. Libraries have an inverse relationship with the economy. When the economy is doing badly, then people turn to the library. Our educational partners work much the same way. Through collaborating with these organizations now, we are being proactive for when citizens need our educational partners and us. Therefore, we continue to look to the future with the library being an educational hub with our educational partners, BTC, SLC, and SWWDB and the potential for future partners.

6. Action Items:

- a. Committee Assignments – The Beloit Public Library Foundation has a vacancy. Lisa Berrones agreed to serve on the BPL Foundation and Nora Gard will replace Lisa Berrones on the Personnel Committee. Maribeth Miller moved to accept the committee assignments of Lisa Berrones on Foundation and Nora Gard on Personnel. Angela Moore seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (8-0)**
- b. November 21, 2018 Meeting – David Sowl moved to change the November meeting date to Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4:00 pm due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Nora Gard seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (8-0)**
- c. Monthly financial report and approval of library and café bills – David Sowl moved to approve the payment of the bills on the warrant in the amount of \$60,711.66 for the library, including a check for the SPI, Inc for \$3,022.50 not included in the packet, and \$3,278.58 for the Blender and the recurring expenses of \$116,496.55 for the library and \$5,141.82 for the Blender. Maribeth Miller seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (8-0).**

7. Trustee Comments –

- Maribeth Miller reported that she will not be able to attend the next ALS meeting.
- Diane Lichtenstein wants to be sure that the board doesn't lose sight of patron's thoughts and feelings regarding the children's area.

- Nora Gard questioned the appropriate time to discuss statistics. The statistics in the packet are for informational purposes. They can be discussed during the Library Director's report or you can contact the Library Director directly.
  - David Sowl inquired about a report from the August meeting in that staff will be moving out from the back and spending more time out on the public floor. Nick reported that this is happening and we are offering training to help with comfort levels.
  - Maribeth inquired about specialized staff being available in the children's area when patrons are present. Yes, we do and when and how that happens will take time.
  - Marty reminded everyone of the Reel Deal fundraiser on October 27. It has been a very successful fundraiser for the library over the past 2 year.
8. Motion to Adjourn – Angela Moore moved to adjourn. David Sowl seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 19, 2018

Submitted by:  
Jennifer Laatz, Business Manager