



beloit public library

Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, WI 53511

1. Call to order and roll call – President Maribeth Miller called the meeting to order at 4:05PM.
Members present: Maribeth Miller, Elizabeth Magnus, David Sowl (dep. 5:30), Sherry Blakeley, Diane Lichtenstein, and Rachelle Elliott.
Members absent: Megan Miller, Angela Moore, and Florence Haley
Also present: Library Director Nick Dimassis and Leadership Team Members: Jennifer Laatz, Amy Mitchell, Michael DeVries, Jeni Schomber, Katharine Clark, and Wyatt Ditzler.
2. Approval of the consent agenda – Magnus moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the December 16, 2020 Library Board meeting minutes and the January 7, 2021 Personnel Committee meeting minutes. Elliott seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (6-0).**
3. Public Comment – None.
4. Reports:
 - a. Library Director and BPL Activity Report - Dimassis prepared a written report. Dimassis highlighted on the following:
 - Library Hire – Nick introduced Carmen Gutierrez, our new Library Service Specialist I – Customer Experience.
 - Fine Free Grant was submitted to Stateline Community Foundation on 1/19/21.
 - The American Family Insurance Grant of \$10,000 will be used for Photo Day for Beloit students. We have added additional dates due to the popularity of the program.
 - The Library hosted a great program 1/19/21 “Effective Ways to Reduce Prejudice”. We will be showing the program to staff and incorporating it into our new board member orientation.
 - We met with Mouna Algahaithi from PBS regarding a partnership on a literacy program. It is very similar to the AmeriCorps Play and Read grant program from a few years back. We look forward to continuing conversations with Mouna and this partnership.
 - Elizabeth Mertes has been promoted to Senior Page taking the position vacated by Lynn Zandler who retired from BPL.
 - We are in the exploring phase regarding the LENA Project.

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“Making a great city even greater.”

- b. Arrowhead Library System (ALS) – Blakeley reported the meeting consisted of standard business. The Wild Wisconsin Winter Webinar is coming at the end of January.
 - c. Beloit Public Library Foundation – Sowl reported the board is discussing funding a position to assist the Foundation in earning funds. Discussions will continue next month. The library thanked the Foundation Board for funding the reupholstery of furniture throughout the library.
 - d. Friends at Beloit Library (FABL) – Magnus reported that the FABL Board approved full funding of the library requests. FABL will be having some mini warehouse sales. They continue to brainstorm how to get books out to the community.
5. Committees –
- a. Budget/Facilities Committee – No meeting.
 - b. Personnel Committee – President Miller reported that the committee met regarding the narrative for the Library Director performance evaluation. This will be discussed further in closed session.
 - c. Strategic Plan Committee – No meeting.
 - d. IDEA Sub-Committee – Sowl reported that the committee discussed questions for focus groups and if they would be different for in-person vs. online. Ana Jimenez brought some good information forward regarding the needs of the Hispanic Community.
6. Old Business: None.
7. New Business:
- a. Board Recruitment – Nick presented materials regarding board recruitment in an effort to diversify library board members to better reflect the community the library serves. Items will be discussed and voted on at the February meeting.
 - b. Implicit Bias Training for the Board – Megan Miller is not present tonight so will table this item to the next board meeting.
 - c. Monthly financial report and approval of library and café bills – This is the start of the new Accounts Payable process so the report of bills paid will be presented at the February meeting.
8. Trustee Activities and Upcoming Events – Blakeley reported that she promoted the new drive-up window. Opinions or other activities to promote can be sent to Lori Stottler to have read in public comment at the City Council meetings.
9. Agenda Review – For February meeting: Board Recruitment, Strategic Plan 2022-2024.
10. Closed Session – Sowl moved to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility specifically for the purpose of the Library Director performance evaluation. Lichtenstein seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (6-0)**. The board entered closed session at 5:17 pm.

Magnus moved to return to open session. Blakeley seconded the motion. **Motion Carried (6-0).**
The board reconvened in open session at 5:30 pm.

11. 2021 Priorities – The board decided to continue using the current implementation plan as written by staff for the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

12. Motion to Adjourn – Lichtenstein moved to adjourn. Blakeley seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Submitted by:
Jennifer Laatz, Business Manager