

Oscar Grady Library Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2014

Members & Guests Present

Present: Kris Becker, Jen Gerber, Kay Hamann, Mary Jo Hansen, Sonia Lear, Hope Mullins, Heidi Rettler, Becky Steck.

Guests: Amy Birtell, ESLS System Director

Not Present: Joe Caban

1) Call to Order

Sonia Lear called the meeting of the Oscar Grady Library Board to order at 6:00P.

2) Statement of Public Notice

The Statement of Public Notice was properly posted.

3) Citizen Comments

None.

4) Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

5) Financial Report

A motion was made, seconded, and passed authorizing payment of the July 2014 CSRF bills.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed accepting the July 2014 General Fund Financial Report.

6) Welcome – Amy Birtell, New ESLS System Director

J. Gerber introduced Amy Birtell to the board. She began July 7th. Strategic planning will be stressed, going forward; a three-year plan is being developed ESLS; member libraries will be involved in this process.. There will be a new method to divide expenses amongst the member libraries.

The board asked if ESLS will be using grants; A. Birtell stated that grants need to be pursued for additional funding to help the system.

A. Birtell stated that communication needs to be improved between ESLS and member libraries. It is important for everyone to be on the same page. Communication amongst directors is also being encouraged. A. Birtell plans to attend member library board meetings once a quarter.

S. Lear proposed having a library board meeting at the ESLS office so the members can tour the office. A. Birtell liked the idea and will coordinate this with J. Gerber & S. Lear.

The board asked A. Birtell what her thoughts are on mergers. A. Birtell stated she is going to be discussing this issue with others in Madison in the near future.

D. Weinhold is providing 2 hours/month consulting time to bring A. Birtell up to speed.

7) Statistics

J. Gerber presented the July statistics. Circulation was comparable to last year. 5,794 people patronized the library in July, the largest number ever.

Collections with Increased Circulation

1. Adult CD Book Non-fiction
2. Adult CD Music
3. Young Adult Book Fiction

Most Used Databases

1. Auto Repair
2. OverDrive
3. Zinio

Top Web Pages

1. Summer Story Time
2. Kid's Movies
3. Summer Reading Party

Summer Reading was very successful – 339 participants registered. Adult/Teen patrons read 318 books & Children's patrons read for 2,061 hours!

8) Director's Report

J. Gerber reported that the broadband/fiber project is still in flux. The connection is ready to go; the state needs to convert the library from copper to fiber. The go-live date should be in September.

The ESLS budget presentation was held today at the Cedarburg Public Library; the directors accepted the proposed budget with a 5% increase presented by A. Birtell.

J. Gerber is working on a grant request from the state for a Digital Conversion Lab for patrons to covert photos and films to digital media. Staff will be trained on how to use the equipment to provide support. Patrons will need to attend a training session to learn how to perform their own media file conversions.

J. Gerber is working on the 2015 budget. She asked the board to thoroughly review the packet for September's meeting.

The WLA conference is scheduled for early November in Wisconsin Dells; J. Gerber will be presenting the state & foundation budgets at the conference.

The library is encouraging patrons to interact with the library Facebook page in order to increase activity and engagement with the library. A Facebook Fine Forgiveness post reached 1,451 people in one week.

9) Communications

J. Gerber shared an anonymous patron's letter to the library that was received this week. The patron is concerned about the future of public funding for libraries. The board discussed the letter & library funding.

10) Other Matters

None.

11) Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:48P after setting Tuesday, September 9, 2014, as the next meeting date.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Heidi Rettler