

**Sparta Free Library**  
**Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
March 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Sandie Perry at 6:00 PM.

**Members present:** Mary Von Ruden, Paul Lenz, Reinhard Mueller and Amy Bernath. Also present were Youth Services Librarian Aimee Schreiber, Adult Services Librarian Kaycee Henderson, and Director Steve Thiry. President Laura Koll and Trustee Terry Putman and were excused.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the February meeting were distributed. **Von Ruden, seconded by Lenz, moved to accept the minutes. Motion carried.**

**Finances:** A printed income report reflecting bills paid and income generated in January 2017 was shared. The following donations were received: \$100 in memory of Miles Luke and \$50 for Mary Relindes Ellis. **Von Ruden, seconded by Mueller, moved to approve the bills. Motion carried.**

**Directors Report:**

**Facility:** An estimate of \$1,800 was presented for painting and filling wall cracks in the lower level. Director Thiry will explore volunteer options and acquire other quotes.

**Staffing Needs:** Director Thiry recommended the board discuss with city administration the need for additional staffing for the weekends with the intent to hire enough support for 4 staff on Saturdays, due to increased programming and participation, and indicated the additional expenditure will be needed to maintain the reimbursement level from the county. Youth Services Librarian Schreiber explained that Lego Club has been moved to Saturdays because the school district has eliminated scheduled early release dates. Story times are also being offered on Saturdays, as well as game days. The family participation emphasis on these program efforts has proven highly popular, drawing large attendance.

Trustee Bernath (Secretary Treasurer) suggested that it might be imprudent to approach city administration for funding increases at this point in the fiscal year. Trustee Von Ruden advised that she had already discussed the matter with the City Administrator/Treasurer Sund, who responded that the library look to its existing budget for sourcing. Trustee Von Ruden, who sits on the City Council, noted that she feels the City Administrators and Council aren't adequately aware of the increased programming, circulation, and community enthusiasm/participation in the Sparta Free Library and offered to provide updates at future City Council meetings. The Board expressed its agreement and appreciation.

**New Business:**

- Information about badly-needed shelving for the YA room was presented by Director Thiry. He recommended purchase of 2 custom curved mobile shelving units, with a total cost of \$6,622, delivered and installed. The Rita K Lund donation funds could be used to purchase them. **Bernath, seconded by Mueller, moved to approve the purchase. Motion carried.**
- Trustee Mueller stated that the building expansion subcommittee has interviewed both architectural firm applicants, River Architects (La Crosse based) and FEH (Iowa based). Both were very accomplished. The key differentiator between the firms is the level at

which community involvement/participation is stressed. Focus on community buy-in appears central to the FEH approach. Trustee Lenz pointed out that they also have a structural engineer on staff and include the fund-raising element with the Sweeney group.

Trustee Von Ruden questioned the level of interest the local community will have in participating in the project, and noted that she was extremely impressed by River Architects.

**Mueller, seconded by Lenz, moved to select FEH as the library proceeds with the building renovation/expansion project. Motion carried, with Trustee Von Ruden abstaining.**

- Vice President Perry read a letter from Director Thiry, tending his resignation effective 24 March 2017. A farewell open house will be scheduled prior to his departure and the Board officers will initiate a recruitment and replacement strategy.
- Changing the time of the Library Board Meetings in order to avoid conflict with City Council meetings was discussed. **Bernath, seconded by Mueller, moved to change the meeting time to 5 PM on the first Monday of each month. Motion carried.**

The next meeting will be the first Monday, April 3, 5:00 p.m. – Library Lower Level – Multi-Purpose Room

**Bernath, seconded by Mueller, moved to adjourn. Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.