

Sparta Free Library
Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 2, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Koll at 5 PM.

Members present: Paul Lenz, Amy Bernath, Sandie Perry, Reinhard Mueller, and Bruce Humphrey. Also present was the interim Library Director, Youth Services Librarian Aimee Schreiber, who introduced the newly hired Adult Services Librarian, Marissa Bazan. Trustee Terry Putman was excused.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November meeting were distributed. **Lenz, seconded by Perry, moved to approve. Motion carried.**

Finances: A printed report reflecting November expenditures and income was shared, as well as a financial statement reflecting year to date actual expenditures as compared to budget projection. **Mueller, seconded by Bernath, moved to approve the bills. Motion carried.** President Koll reminded the Board that the Library's last remaining CD matures in December and that Trustee Bernath would be redeeming it and placing the funds in the Capital Campaign Expenses Account at Union Bank.

Directors Report:

November Programming Highlights:

In November, the library hosted several middle school class visits from St. Patrick's School. Students signed up for library cards, got a lesson on library etiquette, and checked out books. Minute to Win It: Kids vs Adults ran at the start of the month and produced lots of silly moments while parents and children competed. Another session of Little Om Yoga ran on Fridays, with a positive response from families who had been asking for another round of this specific program. November Lego Club saw a fantastic turn out with 57 attendees. The inaugural Geronimo Stilton Club, led by Youth Library Assistant April Anderson, has been enthusiastically attended across the four-sessions. Teen Escape Room rounded out the month with three groups of teens attempting to uncover jewels hidden by a rogue bandit. For the adults this month we ran another session of Memory Connections, our dementia-friendly program. This month we hosted Barry McKnight from La Crosse Public Library who presented Storytime for Seniors. Adults were also invited to attend two Medicare information sessions, discussing various plans and supplements.

Upcoming December Programming:

December will see the last sessions of our regular fall program offerings, including Board in the Library, Groovy Mondays, Teen Crafternoon, Lego Club, Knitting Club, Memory Connections, and Teen Advisory Group. December special events include Kriskindlmarkt Craft Day, held during the open hours of the market on Friday, December 6; the Christmas Bird Count in partnership with the Coulee Audubon Society; Bricks & Flicks, a showing of the Lego Movie 2 and building with the library Lego collection; and the annual Noon Year's Eve Party to celebrate the coming of the new year with kids and families!

Operations:

Personnel:

- Library Assistants Amy Weissenberger and Lori Einer attended the 2019 WRLS Tech Days workshop November 7. Youth Services Librarian Aimee Schreiber attend the WRLS

Summer Learning Workshop on November 21. The Sparta Free Library hosted the first meeting of the WRLS Teen Cohort, a group of librarians from the area that serve teens in their library. The hope is this group will meet regularly to share program and collection development ideas to better serve teen library patrons.

- Youth Services Library Assistant April Anderson is resigning effective December 13th. Trustee Bernath inquired if promotion from within is an acceptable option for filling the position. President Koll advised that if Interim Director Schreiber felt there was an internal candidate qualified for the position, the option was acceptable.
- Volunteers: The library one again hosted students from the Bangor High School for their Day of Service. The students helped clean Legos and STEM toys in the Children's Room, as well as prep craft materials for upcoming programs.

Building & Grounds: Lots of tech challenges this month, particularly with printing, but WRLS and Loeffler have worked closely with us to resolve most of the issues.

Old Business:

Capital Campaign Update: Trustee Bernath announced that the amount raised for the Library Expansion project is nearing \$1 million.

Trustee Humphrey reported that a meeting has been arranged with Mayor Gust, City Administrators Fahning and Sund, Trustees Bernath, Mueller, and himself to determine a proposed timeline for the project.

President Koll reported that Delta Kappa Gamma is considering a small grant and is interested in partnering with the Library.

New Business:

Approval of Library Director hiring: President Koll requested the Board's approval that Ms. Sarah Steinbacher be hired for the position of Library Director. She is currently the Adult Services Librarian at the Rhinelander District Library. **Bernath, seconded by Humphrey, moved to approve the hiring of Ms. Steinbacher. Motion carried.** Her start date will be on January 6, 2020. An Open House/Welcoming Reception will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd for the public to meet and greet both Adult Services Librarian Bazan and Director Steinbacher.

Expansion of Latinx services and collections: President Koll led a discussion about the Library's current and future services and collections.

Currently, in the adult area, the Library offers a modest Latinx collection (written in Spanish) and one-on-one assistance with citizenship preparation. In the teen and youth areas, popular titles/series such as Harry Potter are available in Spanish (and multiple languages) as well as board books, chapter books in Spanish and bi-lingual versions.

Interim Director Schreiber summarized that currently the general needs of the Latinx community have been identified as language acquisition and citizenship assistance. Actual Library visits by Latinx patrons are more often children than adults. Trustee Humphrey inquired how many Latinx children are identified in the Sparta Area School District. President Koll estimated that the population is just under 10% across the grades, more in the elementary than older grades.

President Koll directed the Library staff to implement ways to better meet the needs of our Latinx community, to include: a purposeful approach to enhancing the Latinx collection and capturing data on circulation of Latinx materials. Interim Director Schreiber added that the Library is also considering Spanish storytimes and partnering with the High School Spanish Club. In addition, the library will have one dedicated computer for the 2020 census and is currently passing out information recruiting Spanish-speaking census worker.

Items for Future Consideration: None.

The next meeting will be the first Monday, January 6, 5:00 p.m. – Library Lower Level – Multi-Purpose Room

Bernath, seconded by Mueller moved to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.