

Sparta Free Library
Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees
October 7, 2019

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

Members present: Paul Lenz, Amy Bernath, Sandie Perry, Terry Putman, and Bruce Humphrey. Also present were the co-interim Library Directors: Adult Services Librarian Kayce Henderson and Youth Services Librarian Aimee Schreiber. Trustee Reinhard Mueller was excused.

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

Finances: A printed report reflecting September expenditures and income was shared, as well as a financial statement reflecting year to date actual expenditures as compared to budget projection. **Humphrey, seconded by Bernath, moved to approve the bills. Motion carried.**

Trustee Bernath commended interim Director Schreiber on her excellent presentation in defense of the library's proposed budget for 2020 at the City Council Finance Committee meeting.

Directors Report:

- Programming

September Programming Highlights:

In September youth services staff kicked off the Fall Storytime session and have seen library storytime attendance averaging around 20 attendees. Stuffed Animal Sleepover was a hit again this year, with lots of children enjoying seeing their stuffed friends having adventure in the library after-hours. The very first Open Play Time was held this month, with "things that go" toys available in the Multi-Purpose Room all day for drop-in play. Nearly 50 people attended the first iteration of this event. Regular fall programming resumed including Adult Arts & Crafts, Knitting Club, and Books on the Big Screen. Youth Services Librarian Aimee Schreiber also participated in the St. John's Early Literacy Night, with over 120 attendees.

Upcoming October Programming:

In October regular programming continues with Storytimes, Groovy Mondays, Lego Club, Teen Crafternoon, TAG, Books on the Big Screen, Adult Arts & Crafts, Knitting Club, and Book Club. Special October events in Children's include Harvest Craft Day (held on a no school for the district day) and Star Wars Reads Day over at the Deke Slayton Museum. The teens will enjoy a Black & Orange Party towards the end of the month with DIY snacks, creepy crafts, and games. On October 31, community members of all ages can participate in our annual Costume Contest, with five different age groups competing to win prizes.

Friends of the Sparta Free Library will host their bi-annual book sale at the Sparta Barney Center on Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19.

- Operations

Personnel: We are sad to announce the resignation of Adult Services Librarian Kayce Henderson, but wish her the best in her new position at the La Crescent Public Library. Kayce's last day will be Tuesday, October 15.

- Building & Grounds On Wednesday, October 2 FISH Window Cleaning came and cleaned the library windows.

Old Business:

Status of Library Director Recruitment Efforts: Four interviews were conducted and two candidates were selected for follow-up interviews. Both candidates accepted the invitation for a second interview and then later declined, both citing their inability to relocate with their families at this time.

Trustee Humphrey expressed his concern and recommended the two candidates be contacted to determine if there were other contributing factors. President Koll stated that she has e-mailed both candidates asking for their insights and recommendations for future recruitment and interview tactics. Director Koll also advised that the WRLS Director has contacted her and offered her assistance with the new Director search.

The Library Director opening will be posted with both American Library Association and Wisconsin Library Association position openings the day after the Adult Services Librarian position posting closes.

New Business:

The Adult Services Librarian position will close in mid-October. Six applications have been received to date.

Items for Future Consideration: None.

The next meeting will be the first Monday, November 4, 5:00 p.m. – Library Lower Level – Multi-Purpose Room

Putman, seconded by Lenz, moved to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.