

DRAFT

COUNTY OF WOOD LIBRARY BOARD Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2021

Members Present:

Dave Barth
Betsy Mancl
Joe Zurfluh
Brad Hamilton
Linda Schmidt
Bill Voight
Susan Feith

Library Directors Present:

Jill Porter, Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library
Andrea Halbersma, Lester Public Library, Vesper
Stacy Kunding, Lester Library of Arpin
Andy Barnett, McMillan Memorial Library, WR
Tammy Hardinger, Pittsville Public Library
Jean Anderson, SCLS Representative
Darla Allen, Lester Library, Nekoosa

Also present: Bill Clendenning, Wood County Supervisor

Vice Chairman Barth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. hosted at Lester Library in Vesper. A number of members and library directors attended virtually on Zoom.

Mr. Barth introduced and welcomed Betsy Mancl as the newest member to the board, appointed by the County.

Mr. Barth accepted a motion from Mr. Zurfluth, seconded by Mr. Voight, in commendation of Chairman Cherney for his exceptional dedication and leadership to the Library Board. The motion was approved unanimously. A moment of silence was then observed in Mr. Cherney's honor.

Mr. Barth called for nominations for election of a Chairperson to replace the vacancy created by Mr. Cherney's passing. A motion to nominate Mr. Barth was made by Mr. Zurfluh and seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Nominations were closed, and Mr. Barth was elected unanimously.

Nominations were then requested for the vacated position of Vice Chair. Mr. Voight was nominated and approved by acclamation.

Old Business: A discussion of the status of the 2022 Wood County Library Budget request ensued. It was noted that the Library Board's resolution proposed at the July meeting had been developed, signed by three Board members and presented for consideration by the full Wood County Board. That resolution was adopted on August 17. Mr. Clendenning noted that the full budget was not yet approved.

Minutes of the July 15, 2021, meeting, which had been distributed for review to all Board members, were then presented for approval. Mr. Voight moved to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Schmidt. Motion passed. A copy of the resolution, which was signed by three Committee members and conveyed to the Wood County Board of Supervisors for action, was attached to the minutes, but will be acted on at the November 9th County Board meeting.

New Business: It was reported that Municipality exemptions for library tax were approved.

There was no correspondence.

There were no comments on agenda items or requests for future items

Date of the next meeting was set for 7 p.m., Thursday, January 27, 2022, at the Nekoosa Library to be hosted by Ms. Allen and available on Zoom.

Library Reports:

Ms. Hardinger reported that the Pittsville summer program ended on a positive note, with 229 participants at the height of attendance at a Riverside Park event. She is working in various ways with community partners. She is developing a history of the library.

Ms. Porter reported that Marshfield's 150th anniversary will occur in 2022. The library will be involved in several ways. A movie of a homecoming parade event was discovered at the library. It dated to "just after the big fire." It will be refurbished for viewing. A popup book about Marshfield using children's art is being developed. And a call for recommendations to name a group of 150 Marshfield people who have made significant contributions to the community is being compiled. She also reported that a Saturday program focusing and STEM content was popular among students.

Ms. Halbersma reported she is hoping for more participation at Vesper library events. There have been several community events to create enthusiasm and revitalization in the community, and the library has participated in those events.

Mr. Barnett reported on the status of the Learning Futures renovation project at McMillan Library. Several project items are delayed by supply chain problems. Books may be returned to their proper locations within approximately three weeks after occupancy permits for the renovated space have been obtained from the City.

Ms. Allen reported that the Nekoosa library has returned to regular hours and that a variety of programs were well received over all age groups during the summer. Genealogy activities have also been very strong. Various materials from the Nepco mills have been scanned into the archives. The library has been a point of exchange of materials for the local 4H club. The library is also working on a grant application to the Legacy Foundation. She then shared concerns and thoughts about a dilemma that the library has encountered involving child patron safety.

Ms. Kunding reported several building improvements including to the entryway and installation of new HVAC equipment at Arpin. She talked about the Wisconsin \$3.2 million in pandemic-related grant opportunities which represented collaboration for "big aspirations" because the grants are for \$50,000 each. Some of these grants are competitive, others are noncompetitive.

Ms. Anderson reported that a site has been chosen for the new Madison SCLS facility. A new building is projected to be ready for occupancy in about May 2023. She also described improvements in funding for scholarships for librarians to attend conferences. Referring to other grant opportunities, she noted that there were "short turnaround times for application and then spending" of pandemic-related grants. She offered assistance to individual libraries applying for these grants.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Feith, Secretary