

Notice of this meeting was given in advance with a legal notice posted in the Bridgeport News-Blade. An agenda was delivered to each board member and to the city office.

Meeting was called to order on December 8th, 2022 at 5:29 pm. Roll call was taken. Members present: Thomas Millette, Janelle Kesterson, Chuck Murrell. Absent: Rhea Basa, Amanda Reilly.

Also present: Library Director, Melissa Butler

Chairperson Chuck Murrell announced: "In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a copy of the Open Meeting Act is available for review and is posted in the meeting room."

Minutes of the November 2022 meeting were presented. Motion by Kesterson, second by Millette to approve the minutes. Ayes: Millette, Kesterson, Murrell. Nays: None. Absent: Basa, Reilly. Motion carried.

Bills were presented. Butler explained Microsoft 365 and the Star Herald were both paid for the year. The Help Wanted ad is a weekly bill and will continue through December. Motion by Millette, seconded by Kesterson, to approve the bills. Ayes: Millette, Kesterson, Murrell. Nays: None. Absent: Basa, Reilly. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The City Council has voted to allow the library the last 24 ft in the garage bays in which to expand. Butler is not exactly sure what the next step is to renovate. After some discussion, Butler said she will talk to the other City employees to learn more about the process. Butler told the Board to make a point to thank city employees Anthony, Dane, and Perry as well as city council member Angie Clinger for their support in this matter.

The Teammates did hold the Bright Lights Bridgeport Soup Supper here the day after Thanksgiving. It was a great co-hosting this event, and we had 66 attendees. We have already discussed doing it again next year.

At the yearly conference Butler attended, she learned a lot about the book challenges which have been in the news around the country. Butler explained most of the challenges are coming from well-funded organizations outside of the community. The main issue libraries have had are having loose Collection Development Policies as well as vague Book Reconsideration Policies/forms.

The board members were given a copy of the current Collection Development Policy as well as changes Butler would like to make. Murrell and Millette wish to wait until other board members are present before making changes. Kesterson would like to do more reading, and make sure the proposed changes cover everything. Butler explained we do not state in our policy that BPL supports the Library Bills of Rights or the Freedom to Read Statement, which are important to any public library. Motion by Kesterson to add the statement "BPL upholds the freedom to read, as stated by the American Library Association in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement and protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to the current Collection Development Policy statement. Seconded by Millette. Ayes: Millette, Kesterson, Murrell. Nays: None. Absent: Basa, Reilly. Motion carried.

Another item of interest from the yearly conference was information on an organization called Spottyrain.org. The main point of interest was information on how communities miss out on

government funding when precipitation information isn't gathered for their surrounding areas. Butler will be submitting a grant through the organization to purchase a water gauge and information on how to submit the data to the weather service. In March there is a virtual Science Expo by this organization and Butler is planning on involving the Maker Clubs kids in the expo.

NEW BUSINESS

Butler is working on a new Book Reconsideration Policy to add to the BPL Policy and a new Book Reconsideration Form. Kersterson would like to be involved in the writing, and was given information on what/how/why, etc. Butler explained we do not have policy in this area and the form we currently used has been insufficient in other communities because it is too vague.

Our advertising has been increased a great deal through working with PWCC to add our events to the marquee as well as working with Gail Beyer at the school. Gail is including our newsletter, calendar, and any other flyers sent to her in the monthly mailing from the school. Butler does not have to print and take them to the school, so it is saving us time and money.

Butler has been reading about libraries not decorating for specific holidays to stay neutral in diverse communities. She would like the board to weigh in on whether BPL should forgo holiday decorations, and only do seasonal or nondenominational décor. After some discussion, all board members agree with Butler that BPL employees will continue to decorate for the holidays. If there are concerns in the community, the BPL board will re-evaluate this decision.

DISCUSSION

Murrell asked how the new policy/agreement with the Girl Scouts has been working. Butler said everything is running smoothly and she has no complaints.

Murrell asked about applicants for the open position. Butler has received two applications and does not feel either is a good candidate for the specific position. The board discussed reasons why BPL needs a third employee, what the pay and hours would likely be, and also how the newly passed minimum wage increase might affect our budget.

Motion by Kesterson to adjourn at 6:24 pm, seconded by Millette. Ayes: Millette, Kesterson, Murrell. Nays: None. Absent: Basa, Reilly. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3rd at 5:30 pm.

On the agenda for the next meeting:

Collection Development Policy

Book Reconsideration Policy