

Jefferson County Library Services Board minutes July 28, 2021

Board members present: Linda Ager, Art Biermeier, Joan Fitzgerald, Greg Haasch, and Tim Semo.

Library directors and Bridges Library System staff present: Joan Behm, Cambridge; Eric Robinson, Fort Atkinson; Melissa Anderson, Jefferson; Kelli Mountford, Waterloo (Zoom); Stacey Meacham, Whitewater (Zoom); Gerard Saylor, Lake Mills; Leann Lehner, Johnson Creek; Peg Checkai, Watertown; Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System director

1) Call to order and introductions: The meeting was called to order by President Tim Semo at 5 p.m. The board welcomed new member Greg Haasch.

2) Approval of minutes: Joan Fitzgerald moved that the minutes of the March 3, 2021, meeting be approved. Seconded by Art Biermeier. Motion carried.

3) Comments from the public: No public comment

4) Administrator's report: Eric Robinson gave the report for the administrator of the library services board. He said he spent time drafting the county library plan.

5) Art Biermeier gave the report for the Bridges Library System representative. He said that the trustee appreciation event this fall will be a hybrid event, with an option for meeting locally at the New Berlin Public Library. The library system will be hiring a new executive assistant. Libraries are evaluating take-away craft kits, including looking at pursuing funding from municipalities. There may be a meeting in the future for Friends groups to share ideas. The board formed a personnel committee.

6) Report from Library System Director:

Karol Kennedy reported that she has been working on budgets and plans for both Jefferson and Waukesha counties. Summer reading programs are wrapping up. The CDC has released new Covid-19 guidelines and library directors are processing that information.

Old Business

8) Funding Formula Committee – Committee Chair Art Biermeier reported that the committee has had a number of meetings and has also met with representatives of the Cambridge library and the South Central Library System. Karol Kennedy and Eric Robertson explained how the proposed formula change to include Overdrive in circulation would impact libraries in Jefferson County.

Art Biermeier moved that the board approve the committee's recommendation to include Overdrive in the funding formula. Seconded by Tim Semo. Motion carried.

New Business

9A) A motion to approve the 2022 County Resource Library Budget request was moved by Joan Fitzgerald and seconded by Art Biermeier. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

9B) A motion to approve the 2022 County Library Service Operating Budget request was moved by Tim Semo and seconded by Joan Fitzgerald. It was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

9C) The Jefferson County Library Service Guidelines were reviewed. No changes were suggested.

9D) Draft of the 2022-24 Jefferson County Plan for Library Services was reviewed. No major changes are proposed. Information has been updated to reflect current numbers. Trustees will be provided with a written copy of proposed changes. The library services board will hold a public hearing in August and will take action on the plan. The Jefferson County Board is expected to act on the plan at its September meeting.

9E) The DPI Inclusive Services Statement was reviewed. Eric Robinson explained that libraries review this document to be aware of the DPI position.

10) Reports from county libraries

Issues that applied to most or all libraries included wrapping up summer reading programs, reviewing the DPI Inclusive Services Statement and adjusting to new Covid-19 guidelines from the CDC. Jefferson is working on capital improvement plans, including accessibility issues, landscaping and a new audiovisual system. In Whitewater, the library board has approved a conceptual design for library expansion that will be presented to the city council August 17. There is a new initiative in the 2022 budget to include a community outreach coordinator fluent in Spanish. In Johnson Creek, Leann Lehner is serving as interim director as the board searches for a new director. The library has a full-time intern. In Waterloo, outside programming had good turnout. Outside yoga will continue into the fall. The library is looking into re-carpeting the entire library. In Cambridge, computer usage is back to pre-covid levels and foot traffic is growing. There will be two new library board members. Passes to the Milwaukee Zoo that can be checked out are very popular. In Watertown, the library is operating out of the new, expanded part of the library while the old part of the library is being renovated. All renovation work is expected to be completed at the end of 2021. In Lake Mills, a building evaluation was done last year and a wider community survey will be done in the fall. Quotes are being done for work including roof and stone work. In Fort Atkinson, most circulation numbers are back to 2019 levels but foot traffic is still down. The Fort Atkinson Farmers Market has a garden on library grounds and produce will go to the food pantry. The library has received a grant to put a story walk in a city park. A community survey on library design will be done.

Board President Tim Semo declared the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.