

Jefferson County Library Services Board Minutes Dec. 1, 2021

Board members present: Linda Ager (Zoom), Barbara Beaver (Zoom), Art Biermeier, Joan Fitzgerald, Greg Haasch, Dr. Brian Henning, and Tim Semo.

Library Directors and Bridges Library System staff present: Joan Behm, Cambridge; Eric Robinson, Dwight Foster Public Library, Fort Atkinson; Melissa Anderson, Jefferson; Kelli Mountford, Karl Junginger Memorial Library, Waterloo; Stacey Lunsford, Whitewater (Zoom); Gerard Saylor, Lake Mills; Jodi Kessel Szpiszar, Johnson Creek; Peg Checkai, Watertown, (Zoom); Traci Plotz, Palmyra; and Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System director

- 1) Call to order and introductions: The meeting was called to order by President Tim Semo at 5:01 p.m. The board welcomed new member Dr. Brian Henning, Superintendent of the Waterloo School District. Dr. Henning has served on the Waterloo library board for seven years.
- 2) Approval of minutes : Art Biermeier moved that the minutes of the July 28, 2021, meeting be approved with the change of the name Stacey Meachum to Stacey Lunsford. Seconded by Greg Haasch. Motion carried.
- 3) Comments from the public: No public comment
- 4) Correspondence: No correspondence
- 5) Administrator's report: Eric Robinson
 - a) The annual contracts for library service from Jefferson County were sent out on Nov. 29, 2021. Each library board president, financial representative, and municipal representative need to have these documents signed and returned to the county clerk by Feb. 1, 2022, at the latest.
 - b) The library minimum appropriations for municipal tax exemption have all been signed and returned to Jefferson County.
- 6) Report from Bridges Library System Representative: Art Biermeier
 - a) The board has spent time doing the evaluation for the system director.
 - b) HelpNow, an electronic resource, will not be renewed because of lack of use.

- 7) Report from Bridges Library System Director: Karol Kennedy
 - a) Beth North has been hired as executive assistant.
 - b) Waukesha County is working on its county library plan. Because Jefferson County changed its funding formula to include some electronic resources, Waukesha County is trying to implement a similar provision in its plan.

- 8) Old Business
 - a) Report on 2022 Jefferson County Budget:

Eric Robinson reported that the budget was approved by the Jefferson County Board. He thanked board members and directors for support. He noted that overdrive numbers have been incorporated as part of the change to the funding formula.

- 9) Reports from county libraries
 - Dwight Foster Public Library, Fort Atkinson - A permanent Story Walk will be created. Board games are now available to check out. The assistant director will retire in June. The library is looking at ways to incorporate more community outreach. The library will have a winter reading program.

 - Watertown - The library will be closed Dec. 29-Jan. 24 to transition to the new library space. During that time, the library might direct patrons to pick up materials at nearby libraries. The expanded library will also house the Watertown Family Center and the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation.

 - Whitewater – The library has received three grants: Wisconsin Humanities Council grant for more than \$6,000; Libraries Transforming Communities Grant from the American Library Association to reach out to middle school students; and a NASA at My Library grant from the American Library Association. On Dec. 21, the library will go to the Whitewater Common Council to ask for \$3 million in funds for expanding and renovating the library. The money is contingent upon the library raising \$2 million.

 - Jefferson - The library has completed a new sound system for meeting rooms that it shares with the city. The name of the library has been installed on the front and back of the building. The library has received a grant from Theisen's to help pay for a Story Walk at the former golf course. There will be a winter reading program. The outreach librarian has been creating new partnerships for the library, including with the senior center and the Eagle Pathways program

from the school district. The library is having a Pay It Forward campaign for fines.

- Lake Mills - The library is taking a conservative approach to re-opening and not all the furniture has been brought back. A survey on possible expansion will be sent out. There will be a winter reading program. The library has been giving away many take-home craft kits for both youth and adults.
- Karl Junginger Memorial Library, Waterloo – The library is working on a Story Walk and on new carpeting for the library. Attendance at programs has been good. Twenty-eight adults attended a program to make ornaments. The Friends group is getting four sets of snowshoes, 22 Play Alongs for children and 22 for adults.
- Powers Memorial Library, Palmyra – The library is doing lots of building repairs, including windows, doors, steps and roof, all while working within historic preservation rules. The library is looking for a new childrens librarian. The library has added more snowshoes and is working with businesses to do a Story Walk in business windows.
- Cambridge – The library is doing films and family events. There is a winter challenge from December through March to help people research their family histories. There will be a story scavenger hunt in spring that is a take-off from a Story Walk. Foot traffic is picking up. Director Joan Behm is planning her retirement.
- Johnson Creek – New carpet is being installed. Jodi Kessel Szpiszar has been hired as the new library director. The library is looking for a youth services librarian. The library will do literacy night with schools in February and will have a fine-free February.

10) A motion to adjourn was moved by Art Biermeier and seconded by Joan Fitzgerald.
Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.