

Neenah Public Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2023

Call to Order

With Koller in the chair, the Neenah Public Library Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Members present: Michael Koller (president), Tami Erickson (Aldermanic representative), Joshua Kutney, Beth Irish, Pat Rickman, Randy Fieldhack, Jenn McMahon (Neenah Joint School District Representative), Carol Codner, Ellie Mertes (teen representative), and Harrison Flint (teen representative).

Member excused: Lisa Hemes, George Scherck

Present also: Gretchen Raab, director, Nancy Baird, circulation services manager, Katrina Wulff, youth services manager, and Amy Fairchild, City of Neenah Human Resources & Safety director.

Newly appointed Library Board member Joshua Kutney was introduced during the public comments section.

Minutes

On motion of Rickman, seconded by McMahon, the Board approved the minutes of the Library Board meeting of January 18, 2023.

On motion of Erickson, seconded by Fieldhack, the Board approved the minutes of the three selection committee meetings of Jan 19, Feb 2, and Feb 9, 2023.

Closed Session

At 4:03 p.m., on motion of Irish, seconded by Erickson, the Board went into closed session to consider employment of a new Library Director.

Mertes, Flint, Raab, Wulff, and Baird left the room.

At 4:23 p.m. the Board reconvened to open session and Mertes, Flint, Raab, Wulff, and Baird returned to the room.

On motion of Rickman, seconded by Fieldhack, the Board unanimously approved the selection of Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm as the new Library Director and authorized Human Resources Director Fairchild to proceed with the hire.

Statistical reports

Circulation of physical and electronic materials has increased 14% from this time last year.

Bills for consideration

On motion of Erickson, seconded by Fieldhack, the Board unanimously approved payment of the January 2023 bills and the remaining 2022 bills.

Department reports

Circulation Services Department

Baird noted that the three new trainees in circulation are doing well, and the department is now fully staffed.

Youth Services Department

Wulff spoke to a class of future librarians at UW-Oshkosh about intellectual freedom and book challenges. A Valley Packaging group job shadowed Youth Department staff to better understand the various job duties.

The spring story time schedule begins March 6 and runs through April. New youth staff member Megan Meyers joined the team on Feb 7.

Irish left the meeting 4:49 p.m.

Summer lunches

Raab informed the Board that the library will host summer lunches Monday through Friday in June. The school district is undergoing building projects and will not provide lunches in July.

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Annual Report

Director discussed the 2022 DPI Annual Report. On motion of Fieldhack, seconded by Codner, the Board unanimously approved the annual report and accepted the statement concerning public library system effectiveness.

Next regularly scheduled meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Shattuck Community Room.

Adjournment

On motion of Erickson, seconded by Fieldhack, the Library Board adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baird