

Neenah Public Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2019

Call to Order

With Rickman in the chair, the Neenah Public Library Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Carpenter Conference Room. Members present: Patricia Rickman (vice president), Carol Codner, Beth Irish, Lisa Hemes, George Scherck, Tami Erickson (Aldermanic representative), and Randy Fieldhack. Members excused: Jan Sarnecki (president), Merry Whipple, Angela Greselin and Tim Kachur (Neenah Joint School District Representative).

Also present, Gretchen Raab, director, Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm, assistant director, Nancy Baird, circulation services manager, Katrina Wulff, youth services manager, and Jean Maurice Boyer.

Public comments

Jean Maurice Boyer expressed his concerns about teen circulation numbers and how that might correlate in student reading proficiency. Boyer suggested reaching out to the school district and asking how the Library can support their curriculum. Boyer sees this as an opportunity to further discussions with teens and the school board on how to best meet each of their needs and to create life long library users.

The Library Board thanked Boyer for sharing his comments and concerns. The Library Board and staff took Boyer's comments under advisement, and the topic will be added to a future board agenda.

Minutes

On motion of Erickson, seconded by Fieldhack, the Board approved the minutes of the Library Board meeting of June 19, 2019.

Statistical report

Youth audiobook circulation is up 60%, since the integration of books and audiobooks. Digital circulation continues to increase, with a 14% increase over last year. Program attendance was up 28%. Although public computer Internet use is down by 10%, Wi-Fi use increased by 7%.

Bills for consideration

On motion of Fieldhack, seconded by Codner, the Board unanimously approved payment of the July bills.

Director's report

Director Raab shared that the Library continues to serve around 100 lunches a day. In conjunction with the Neenah Arts Council, the Library is sponsoring a library themed utility box wrap. Library staff will be at the Winnebago County Fair August 3.

Department reports

Circulation Services Department

Baird reported 22 new library cards have been issued on Bibliocycle.

Youth Services Department

Wulff discussed the popularity of the Caregiver Reading records and the popularity of Tween Scene and Chapter-a-day programs.

Adult and Technical Services Department

Hardina-Wilhelm reported 411 items were checked out in June via Hoopla, with 351 of those titles being unique. The most popular format patrons checkout on hoopla is audiobooks, with ebooks being second.

Signage

Director Raab met with a local signage company to discuss the library's needs for wayfinding and directional signage.

Self-checkout area

Director Raab shared Sean Keepers ideas for an image wrap on the new wall behind the self-checkout machines.

Shoutbomb statistics

Staff have learned that items renewed via "Shoutbomb" have not been included in the circulation statistics. The June statistics reflects those revised numbers. Winnefox staff will now include items renewed via Shoutbomb in the monthly statistics.

Kaleidoscope

The Kaleidoscope will be placed near the entrance and be anchored to the sidewalk.

Next regularly scheduled meeting

Wednesday, August 21 at 4:00 p.m. in the Carpenter Room.

Adjournment

On motion of Fieldhack, seconded by Erickson, the library board adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm