

Monroe Library Board

October 5, 2022

Re: October Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

President Mary Sellers called the October 2022 meeting of the Monroe Public Library Board to order at 4:19 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Mary Sellers, Marlene Beyer, Josh Palma, Jeanette Rankin,
Jeanne VanGenderen

Not Present: Mary Catherine Striegel

Staff Present: Brenda Lanser

Guests: June Hjortshoj

Minutes

The regular minutes of the September 2022 meeting were submitted and reviewed.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Josh and seconded by Marlene.

Motion carried.

Bills and Financial

The bills and financial statement were presented. A motion to approve the payment of the bills ending September 30, 2022 was made by Jeanne and seconded by Josh.

Motion passed.

Discussion Items:

- Brenda had a little bit of glitch with Atrium, book cataloging system, and she has a call in to them to get it fixed.
Issue: Some of the books that patrons check in are appearing that they were never checked out.
- Circulation is down about 1,500 this year, but on the upside is that that the Libby system is up about 700. Brenda, says this appears to be trending for libraries.

Director's Report

- The story walk is being installed as part of the Diekema memorial. This will run from the Red Rock Park to almost the Dog Park. There will be 20 stands about 75 feet apart for patrons of all ages to read the book. Brenda is able to change out these pages for the book walk.

Unfinished Business

1. Assistant Employee

- Korean Lilacs were purchased at the suggestion of the landscape specialist for in front of the library. These bushes have "soft" roots which will be good for us out front. Some Prairie Drop Seed, a prairie grass, was also purchased by June Hjortshoj to help in the beautification of the front landscaping.

New Business

1. Grant Applications

- Brenda has been working with Don Timmins with the Clement Trust to get another grant. Her motivation for this grant was to remove the pea gravel on the east side of the library, and to have an outside library area for multigenerational patrons. Her request amount will be: \$22,500.00.
- Pella Kiwanis reached out to Brenda to see if our library would be in need of funds. Brenda wrote a grant to seek additional STEM kits on steam engines. These STEM kits are for 5th – 8th graders. Request amount: \$5,500.00.

2. Halloween

- The library is collaborating with The Gathering Place to have a Halloween gathering in the town square park. Jennifer Johnson from Otley is going to provide some animals at the event. It is from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 8th. The library is hosting various games for the children to enjoy. Goody bags will be given to each child.

3. Trustee Training

- The training will be at the Monroe Public Library on October 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The topic for this training is on banned books.

4. Library

- The Monroe Elementary has requested that they would like to have Thursday and Fridays from 7:30 – 8:30 am for off-site training. Brenda said this was not a one-time event and they wanted it weekly for several weeks. It was decided that since this is outside of our “open” for business library hours it would require additional staffing hours to comply with this request. Therefore, the library will not be available for this time frame for the school district. Brenda said she will let them know that we cannot provide the library as a meeting place.

5. Board Secretary

- Jeanne made a motion to appoint Marlene as temporary Board Secretary for three months to commence when Jeanne is no longer with the Board. Seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.
- Josh submitted his resignation to serve on the Board as he is leaving to return to Pana, Illinois this is effective immediately. Marlene submitted the motion and Jeanette seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 4:15 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 5:21 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne VanGenderen, Board Secretary