

Minutes
Nobles County Library Board
Monday, May 9, 2022

- **The following board members were in attendance:** Kathy Craun, Jennie Kinser, Andrea Duarte Alonso and County Commissioner Bob Paplow
- **Absent:** Peg Faber and Katie Kouba
- **Present library staff:** Library Director Beth Sorenson, Circulation and Technical Services Coordinator Laurie Ebbers and Office Support Marci Moshier
- **Others present:** Kari Lucin from The Globe and Pete Navara from Friends of the Library

Call to Order:

Kathy Craun called the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Additions to Agenda:

Beth Sorenson would like to add Better World Books and Library Construction Grant, both under New Business.
M/S/P: Duarte Alonso/Kinser

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

The board reviewed the minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting.
M/S/P: Kinser/Duarte Alonso

Reports:

Financial:

The board reviewed the financial reports from April 2022.
M/S/P: Duarte Alonso/Kinser

Claims:

The board reviewed the April 2022 claims. Staff member, Marci Moshier, noted the only thing out of the ordinary is the invoice for Radio Works; that was for the ad on the radio announcing the library's change of hours while the library was understaffed.
M/S/P: Kinser/Duarte Alonso

Circulation:

The board reviewed the circulation reports for April 2022. Kathy Craun explains to the newer members/staff that Worthington had been sending out so many books to other libraries, disproportionately, since we are a bigger library. The system was adjusted so we are down further on the list; now we don't have such a big burden on us to send out as many items.

PCLS Report:

Kathy Craun states that Bob, Andrea and herself were all at the last meeting three weeks ago. Kathy continues that there was discussion on the Windom Public Library, as their Director of several years is retiring. The Windom library is a City library, and the City was proposing, or thought, that maybe they could hire somebody that would take care of the library as well as the event center. The current Director has been there for quite some time, so they would need to update their job description. In the meeting, Kathy explained to them that we just went through and updated our job description to get our new Library Director and directed them to contact Bruce Heitkamp (County Administrator) about the job description. Kathy wraps up the discussion that Elizabeth Hoffman (Plum Creek Director) updated them on the updates happening at the Plum Creek Building.

Old Business:

- **Library Strategies – Update**
 - Beth Sorenson updates the Board that Bruce Heitkamp went through more of the plan with the staff at the staff meeting last week. It was mostly a meeting to review things and to catch Beth up on where things are.
- **Library Employee Update (Circulation Assistant – Youth Services)**
 - Beth Sorenson updates the Library Board that Chalesia Armendariz started today and will continue training this week. She will work 24 hours a week.
- **Ancestry**
 - Beth Sorenson states that Daniel Mick checked with Ancestry if the library could get a single subscription just for us, but Ancestry told him that's not how it works. Beth reminds the Board that there were other possibilities discussed, some subscriptions were around \$400.00 or so a year but that hasn't been looked at more yet. That subscription would be more newspaper indexes and obituaries, not the full package. Bob Paplow questions if this is for ads and Beth explains this is a database to look up genealogy records or census information type things. Kathy Craun states she has a personal subscription to Ancestry at this time, which is more dependent on other people entering in information. Bob asks if it can just be Googled, but Kathy explains that this is a subscription database. She'll put in her name and it will go back generations; if her relatives are in public records, courts, marriages, where they live, etc. and keeps going back. Kathy states that her information goes back to the 1700s, so it's a more personalized directory for her. Bob questions why we supply that for people or why we do that? Kathy replies that when the Historical Society was here, they were the main users and it was a service that they provided. The library is involved in that because it was a demand by the public that they wanted it; it's a public service we provided like magazines. Beth Sorenson adds that 10-12 years ago there was a big push of people wanting to trace their roots; where people want information, we help. Andrea Duarte Alonso adds that from her perspective it's a neat thing, it goes beyond just relatives but also land and location that your family was probably once in. Beth explains that the statistics don't track individual users, only the number of articles and images that are accessed. It is discussed by the Board that it should be found out if the Historical Society still has Ancestry.

New Business:

- **Introduction of New Library Director – Beth Sorenson**
 - Beth Sorenson was introduced to Board Members as they came in for the meeting. Beth voices that she has worked in libraries since she was in college in the 80's. She has worked in academic libraries and this is her fourth public library position. She is looking forward to digging in to see what the staff needs and what they're excited about so that we can start moving forward. She is happy to be here!
- **Better World Books**
 - Beth Sorenson explains that Better World Books is kind of an online used book store. They take donations but also will take a batch of books from libraries and put them for sale (such as on Amazon, in used books) or they will send books to other countries that don't have as much access to materials. If the books aren't used in other libraries they do responsibly recycle them as well. Beth continues that if we're doing a big weed on our collection that it's a pretty simple process but it just takes a little bit of staff time. The book gets scanned, see if they say yes or no, they send boxes, they get packed up and picked up by UPS. The library will get a percentage of it and checks are sent quarterly. She adds that this might be a good way to get rid of book sale books that can't sell and still get a little money for them.
- **Library Construction Grant**
 - Beth Sorenson updates the Board that she received an e-mail from Elizabeth Hoffman (Plum Creek Director) that the MLA Legislative Committee is advising librarians to push for Library Construction Grants/Bonding by contacting representatives and senators, encouraging them to support this measure. Beth continues that at the last library she worked at they received \$784,000.00 in a Library Construction Grant and it's matching funds. She adds that we have to make sure whatever we may ask for that the County, or other funding agencies, could match the grant.

Other:

- **Spring Book Sale – results**
 - Beth Sorenson reports that the Spring Book Sale brought in \$975.49. This is a lot more than normal.

Upcoming Events:

- **Arthur Norby (author of seven Tom Hall Mysteries) – Thursday, May 19, 2022**

Adjournment

Kathy Craun adjourns the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

M/S/P: Duarte Alonso/Craun

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 13, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the library's Program Room.

Respectfully submitted, Marci Moshier, Office Support