

**Minutes**  
**Nobles County Library Board**  
**Monday, September 12, 2022**

- **The following board members were in attendance:** Peg Faber, Kathy Craun, John Stewart, Jennie Kinser, Katie Kouba County Commissioner Bob Paplow
- **Absent:** None.
- **Present library staff:** Library Director Beth Sorenson and Office Support Marci Moshier
- **Others present:** None.

***Call to Order:***

Peg Faber called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

***Additions to Agenda:***

None.

M/S/P: Craun/Kinser

***Public Comment:***

None.

***Approval of Minutes:***

The board reviewed the minutes from the August 8, 2022 meeting.

M/S/P: Kinser/Craun

**Reports:**

**Financial:**

The board reviewed the financial reports from August 2022, as well as the quarterly reports of Worthington and Adrian's donations.

M/S/P: Craun/Kinser

**Claims:**

The board reviewed the claims from August 2022. The Board asks if the 3D Doodle Pens have been purchased yet but the Friend's haven't approved that request. Beth Sorenson adds that she applied for a grant to cover those types of things but it hasn't been approved yet.

M/S/P: Craun/Kouba

**Circulation:**

The Board reviewed the circulation reports for August 2022. Included in the line graphs are 2019 vs 2022 numbers for the Board to look at; Worthington's numbers are still low. Marshall's circulation numbers are noted, as they are always so high. It's discussed how Marshall is just a different community than Worthington and they also have a large college in town. The Board talks about how Covid probably accelerated some things and introduced people to working at home and having to learn how to use audible or book apps, etc. It is also discussed how more people come in for the services we offer, such as computers, printing, scanning and faxing but don't check things out.

**PCLS Report:**

Kathy Craun updates the Board that there hasn't been a Plum Creek Governing Board meeting since the our last meeting. Bob Paplow and Kathy Craun inform the Board that the Plum Creek Annual Meeting will be in Tracy on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Library Board members are invited to attend. It is \$17.00/person and spouses/significant others may attend as well. Beth Sorenson will e-mail the invitation to the Board members.

### **Old Business:**

- **Strategic Plan – Update**
  - Beth Sorenson informs the board there isn't an update to report at this time.
- **Employee Update – Adult Services Librarian**
  - Beth Sorenson updates the Library Board that quite a few applications were received. It was narrowed down to three candidates to interview but only one came. The position was offered to this candidate but she is trying to find housing here before she accepts the position and will give her answer by Friday.
- **Library Board Member Openings – Update**
  - John Stewart is the newest Library Board member, he is from District 4. After introductions, the Board thanks him for joining and welcomes him.

### **New Business:**

- **Review By-Laws**
  - Beth Sorenson asks the Board to review these sections:
    - Article III, Article 2: The Board discusses this and decides to remove the last sentence.
    - Article IV, Article 2: The Board discusses this and decides to remove the last sentence.
    - Article VIII, Article 1: The Board discusses this and changes Secretary to Vice President. This will change in #5 and #6 too.
    - Article X, Article 1. The Board discusses this and removes #1, moves current #3 to #1 and #2 remains.
  - Changes will be made and highlighted for the next meeting, at which time the By-Laws will be reviewed again and possibly approved.
- **Form a Committee – to support the ongoing development of the library space.**
  - Beth Sorenson states that she had been talking with Kathy Craun about the history of multiple attempts to build a new library or remodel this current building. She adds that it seems that the only way this will happen is if we do it ourselves. A committee would need to be formed and do fundraising. Beth adds that if this is something that the Board thinks is necessary and this community thinks is necessary, then this may be the only way it will happen, because it has been tried other ways over the years and hasn't succeeded. Peg Faber adds that she came on the Library Board 10 years ago and a new library was discussed at that time and we're still in the same place; she agrees it is time to take the bull by the horns and do it ourselves. Beth voices that we couldn't have done what we did this summer without the basement rooms and that we had fantastic program attendance. She continues that the upstairs is still crowded; even with weeding the book collection, it can still be overwhelming. The Art Center is discussed; if they are staying in this building then they should be a part of this committee as well. This committee would help decide how we put our best foot forward and to make a good, solid plan for going forward. It's discussed how other libraries have done renovations, adding square footage but this also means adding more library staff. County Commissioner Bob Paplow advises that this committee needs to be reasonable in what is going to be asking for and then get it out to the public to let them know the plan. He adds that he thinks the County Commissioners will like it if the public gets more involved in the future outlook and the library will go a long ways. Ideas and suggestions for improvements/remodeling are discussed as well as the high price it could be to find a new property. It's discussed again how there has been so much work done over the years, outside people have been hired and still nothing has ever happened. Different spaces are talked about for more privacy for patrons who are in meetings or calls, improvements with plug-in areas and technology. Peg Faber wraps up the discussion by saying that the important thing now would be to find the person that will be the head of the committee; that will be the key person in this.
- **Friends of the Library – Program Funding**
  - Beth Sorenson updates the Board that the Friends of the Library gave \$1,000.00 for William Kent Krueger to come visit. The Board signs a thank you card for the Friends.

### **Other:**

- **Results:**
  - Summer Reading Carnival = approximately 207 people
  - Movie Night = 8 (had to move inside due to thunderstorms rolling through)

▪ **Other:**

- Beth Sorenson informs the Board that there has been ‘book challenges’ going on around the area, with the closest one being in Lake Benton. She has drafted and handed out a rough draft of a Collection Development Policy for the Board to start reviewing and will discuss at the next meeting.
- Beth Sorenson also informs the Board that Rune’s Furniture here in town gave us a free chair, which is in the Youth Room by the puppets for the adults to sit in. It will need to be reupholstered but is comfortable. The Board signs a thank you card for Rune’s.

***Upcoming Events:***

September 19, 2022 – Author, Hector Curriel – Teen Program from 4-4:45 p.m. (Worthington)  
– Adult Program from 6-7 p.m. (Worthington)

September 24, 2022 – Author, William Kent Krueger (Worthington) from 1-2 p.m. (Worthington)

October 6, 2022 – Kate Swenson – local author – from 6-7 p.m. (Worthington)

October 24, 2022 – Supernatural Author, Adrian Lee from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Worthington)

November 8, 2022 – Kathie Hendricks – local author – Children’s Program 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Worthington)  
– Adult Program 5:30 -6:30 p.m. (Worthington)

***Adjournment***

Peg Faber adjourns the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

M/S/P: Kouba/Craun

***Next Meeting:***

Monday, October 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the library’s Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted, Marci Moshier, Office Support