

**Minutes**  
**Nobles County Library Board**  
**Monday, February 13, 2023**

- **The following board members were in attendance:** John Stewart, Peg Faber, Jennie Kinser, Katie Kouba, Bridget Harberts and County Commissioner Bob Paplow
- **Absent:** None.
- **Present library staff:** Library Director Beth Sorenson and Office Support Marci Moshier
- **Others present:** Kari Lucin (The Globe) and Alyssa Kienholz (intern at the Nobles County Library)

***Call to Order:***

Peg Faber called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

***Additions to Agenda:***

Beth Sorenson – under July 2023 Board Meeting – has a couple other time-related questions.

Bob Paplow – under New Business – has an item to discuss.

M/S/P: Stewart/Kinser

***Public Comment:***

None.

***Approval of Minutes:***

The board reviewed the minutes from the January 6, 2023 Work Session.

M/S/P: Kouba/Stewart

The board reviewed the minutes from the January 9, 2023 regular Library Board Meeting.

M/S/P: Kouba/Kinser

**Reports:**

**Financial:**

The board reviewed the financial reports from January 2023.

M/S/P: Kinser/Harberts

**Claims:**

The board reviewed the claims from January 2023.

M/S/P: Stewart/Kouba

**Circulation:**

The board reviewed the circulation reports from January 2023. Included were line graphs that showed adult circulation, children's circulation and patron numbers for both Adrian and Worthington libraries from the last five years. The board questions if the new normal is the way that 2021-2022 look, as 2018-2019 were very similar before Covid. Beth Sorenson adds that going forward the number of patrons may increase but circulation may not, as there is more use of the Conference Rooms and more programs.

**PCLS Report:**

Katie Kouba reports to the board that Plum Creek is trying to apply for an increase in budget from the State.

**Old Business:**

▪ **Library Strategies – Three Summaries from Community Survey - Review**

- Beth Sorenson comments that people that did the Community Survey don't necessarily come in or use the library. Some things that were commented on we do indeed do already but for whatever reason that's not always known or people aren't aware. John Stewart adds that working with the Director of the Memorial Auditorium, Tammy Makram, might be a great way to do some cross publicity for foreign language things. Beth Sorenson continues that one idea she came up with to make the community more aware of things at the

library would be called “I See You”, which she’s hoping to present to the Friends of the Library as a project that they might do. Googly eyes would be placed around the community with a library fact about how the library is trying to meet community needs. Once the googly eyes are found, they’re brought back to the library and hopefully a picture can be taken of the person with their library fact, which can be put on FB for publicity and then they would receive a prize. The board discusses different ideas with social media – possibly adding Instagram and linking it with Facebook. Adding Facebook posts in Spanish is also discussed as a good idea; more publicity in general. Discussion turns to the library building. Repairing the relationship with the County is a main item to work on, as the relationship has not always been the greatest when it comes to talk of a new building or renovation of the current building. It is agreed by the board that the consensus from the public and the County Commissioners is that the library’s location is liked and rather than a new building, work could be done on the current building. The board would like to keep moving forward, even if it’s baby steps. The board discusses what to do next; they like Beth’s drawing of the basement’s plan but would like the staff’s input and ideas too. It’s agreed that having a plan for the upstairs and basement should be thought out now, as they have to flow together. Discussion about needing to add possible staffing is briefly discussed and will be discussed more in the future. Bob Paplow mentions getting the architect involved (Keith Thompson) that did the Armory would be helpful, as he knows what can or cannot be done on historic buildings. The Board discusses using him or possibly a library architect, as that has been mentioned before. The Board agrees they don’t want to lose momentum; the next month will be spent with Beth researching possible architects or library architects and talking with the staff about their ideas for the library building.

### **New Business:**

#### ▪ **Introduction of New Library Board Member**

- Bridget Harberts introduces herself to the Library Board and tell the board a little bit about herself. The board welcomes her.

#### ▪ **Internships**

- Beth Sorenson introduces Alyssa Kienholz; she is doing her practicum from the University of Omaha, where she is getting a bachelor’s degree in Library Science. Alyssa thanks the board and is thankful she was allowed to do her practicum here.

#### ▪ **Electronic Materials and Devices Policy – Review**

- Beth Sorenson discusses with the Board that some changes are needed on this policy, as some things can be eliminated and things have changed since it was last updated. Beth goes over the changes with the Board and it is agreed to review it again next month for approval.

#### ▪ **July 2023 Board Meeting**

- Beth Sorenson explains that she will be gone on July 10<sup>th</sup>, which is when the Library Board meeting is scheduled for. A Board member will also be gone then. It is agreed upon by the Board that the meeting will be pushed back one week to July 17, 2023.
- Beth asks the board’s preference on being open or closed the Saturday before President’s Day. The board doesn’t have a preference either way and directs Beth to make the decision, keeping the staff in mind. Beth adds that Juneteenth has been declared a State holiday and feels the staff could use a break. It is discussed where the decision comes from to close on Saturdays before holidays and Beth explains that we basically are the only County department open on Saturdays. The board feels comfortable with letting Beth decide after discussing it with the staff at their staff meeting.

#### ▪ **Library Board Meetings – Seating at the Tables**

- Bob Paplow brings his new business discussion to the board – he believes that Pete from the Friends of the Library should be at the table with the Board. The board asks if everybody should be at the table that comes to the meetings or if Bob means just Pete – Bob clarifies that Pete should be at the table, as we are trying to build that relationship with The Friends. The board agrees that is another step towards building that relationship and a spot will be put at the table for Pete next month.

**Other:**

▪ **Program Results:**

- CK Van Dam (author) = 5, Debbie Boe (genealogist) = 5, Jeanne Cooney (virtual author visit) = 1, Jewelry Making Class With Myra = 22.
- Winter Reading Program update for Worthington = 169 people signed up with 32 cards completed.
- Winter Reading Program update for Adrian = 57 people signed up with 4 cards completed.

▪ **Upcoming Events:**

**Adult Programs:**

January 4<sup>th</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>: Winter Reading Program

February 14<sup>th</sup>\_\_\_\_Lorna Landvik (author) – virtual program here (Plum Creek Author Tour) – 3:00 p.m.

February 21<sup>st</sup>\_\_\_\_Chad Lewis (author) – virtual program here (Plum Creek Author Tour) – 7:00 p.m.

February 28<sup>th</sup>\_\_\_\_Brian Freeman (author) – virtual program here (Plum Creek Author Tour) 7:00 p.m.

March 8<sup>th</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ *On the Books* with Nobles County Attorney, Joseph Sanow – 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**Weekly Youth Programs:**

Mondays\_\_\_\_\_Wii (Grades 5-9)

Tuesdays/Thursdays\_\_\_\_After-School Program (Grades K-5)

Wednesdays\_\_\_\_\_Story Time (Toddlers – Preschoolers) **AND** Just Gurlz (Grades 5-9)

***Adjournment***

Peg Faber adjourns the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

M/S/P: Stewart/Kouba

***Next Meeting:***

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the library’s Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted, Marci Moshier, Office Support