

**Minutes**  
**Nobles County Library Board**  
**Monday, January 9, 2023**

- **The following board members were in attendance:** Peg Faber, John Stewart, Jennie Kinser, Katie Kouba 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 Pete Navara (Friends of the Library)

***Call to Order:***

Peg Faber called the meeting to order 4:00 p.m.

***Additions to Agenda:***

None.

M/S/P: Stewart/Kinser

***Public Comment:***

None.

***Approval of Minutes:***

The board reviewed the minutes from the December 2022 meeting.

M/S/P: Kinser/Stewart

**Reports:**

**Financial:**

The board reviewed the financial reports from December 2022.

M/S/P: Kinser/Stewart

**Claims:**

The board reviewed the claims from December 2022.

M/S/P: Kinser/Kouba

**Circulation:**

The Board reviewed the circulation reports from December 2022.

**PCLS Report:**

Due to weather, the Governing Board Meeting was postponed until January 18, 2023.

**Old Business:**

- **Strategic Plan/Work Session - Update**
  - Beth Sorenson hands out three packets from Library Strategies. These are summaries from Focus Groups/Interviews, Community Survey and Staff Report. The Board would like to have time to go through and read these summaries before more discussion. Discussion is continued from Friday's Work Session. The Board feels stuck in what can be done until more is known about funding from the County. Bob Paplow replies that he will talk to the County Commissioners tomorrow, as they have a meeting. Bob also adds that he is for remodeling the building but not for a new building. It's discussed how the library has been marked as a historical place and there are limitations on what can be done – this will be looked into more. The Board agrees that a tour for the County Commissioners may be beneficial. There is also more discussion that getting a Library Architect may be helpful as well.
- **Library Board Member Vacancy (District 3) – Update**

- Kathy Craun's term has expired. Beth Sorenson is going to check with the County to see when they're going to post the position. At the Work Session Kathy had mentioned a possible candidate to take her place; more information will be gathered from her.

### **New Business:**

#### ▪ **Election of New Officers & Plum Creek Governing Board**

- Plum Creek Governing Board – Katie Kouba previously volunteered to be one of the two attendees. Due to scheduling conflicts with the remaining Library Board Members, the second position will be offered to the new District 3 Library Board Member.
- Election of New Officers:
  - Jennie Kinser nominates Peg Faber for President. Katie Kouba seconds. Peg Faber accepts.
  - Katie Kouba nominates Jennie Kinser for Vice President. John Stewart seconds. Jennie Kinser accepts.

#### ▪ **Customer Service Policy - Review**

- The Library Board has reviewed this policy. John Stewart makes a motion to accept the policy as it is written. Second by Katie Kouba. All in favor; none opposed.

#### ▪ **Reference Policy – Review**

- The Library board has reviewed this policy. Katie Kouba makes a motion to accept the policy as it is written. Second by John Stewart. All in favor; none opposed.

#### ▪ **Unique & MessageBee**

- Beth Sorenson explains to the Board that when the County Attorney asked us not to send patrons to them anymore for long overdue materials, she began looking at other options. She explains that Unique helps to recover materials for libraries. The library would still send the usual notices and after a set amount of times (and dollar amount) they would be sent to Unique and they would begin their process to try to recover the materials. It is a \$200.00 startup fee and \$11.65 per patron that they are contacting (the \$11.65 would be added to the patron's fines). The company states that they get at least 85% of materials back or paid for. Beth talked with the Marshall Library and they believe they only get about a 20% recovery rate. Discussion amongst the Board that it doesn't seem worth the money if the return rate isn't that great and also that if the patrons are ignoring the notices from the library, it probably will be easier to ignore someone else they don't know. This is tabled for now but the Board agrees to revisit it, if need be in the future.
- Beth Sorenson explains that MessageBee is even more expensive, as it's \$4,000.00 but has some nice features. She explains that MessageBee calls people on a daily basis when items are overdue. There is also a feature that would send out promotional e-mails for the usual services such as holds, items due as well as upcoming programs. The Board agrees that this is too expensive, as does Beth; she didn't have the price when it was put on the agenda for the meeting.

### **Other:**

Winter Reading Program – January 4<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> - Beth Sorenson adds that as of today 70 people have signed up in Worthington and 15 have signed up in Adrian.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Mary Yungeberg – author - January 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- CK Van Dam – author – January 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Debbie Boe – genealogist – February 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Jewelry Making with Myra – February 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Springo (Bingo) – March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Peg Faber adjourns the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

M/S/P: Kouba/Stewart

### **Next Meeting:**

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

Respectfully submitted, Marci Moshier, Office Support