

**Minutes**  
**Nobles County Library Board**  
**Monday, August 14, 2023**

- **The following board members were in attendance:** Peg Faber, John Stewart, Bridget Harberts, 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), Kathy Craun (Friends of the Library) and Mike Woll (owner of Mike Woll Investment Office)

***Call to Order:***

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

***Approval of the Agenda:***

M/S/P: Kinser/Stewart

***Public Comment:***

Mike Woll and Kathy Craun

- Mike Woll presented the board with his idea of a potential library expansion on the current green space, as well as expanding across 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where there currently is a gravel parking lot, apartment buildings and buildings that were lost to fires. Mike has a vision of having a new green space in that area, as well as collaborating with the area businesses and creating this part of downtown to be a destination. Mike would be happy to help reach out to these potential partnerships. The board thanks Mike for his ideas.
- Discussion follows Mike's exit that he has some great ideas and collaborating may be the way to go. It's questioned if the board should look more into Mike's idea, continue with the architects at Koch Hazard and somehow combine the two projects or start over. Discussion shifts to the Focus Group meeting that happened with the architects before the Library Board Meeting. There were two plans, one with renovating the current building and one with the addition. Only the renovation plan was seen today.
- Kathy Craun updates the board that she now is the Chair of the Friends of the Library. Barb Shire is the Vice Chair, Gretta Martin is the Secretary and Paula Stock is the Treasurer. Kathy explains that they are campaigning to spread the word about the library, promoting and supporting the library. They have a table at the Farmer's Market on Tuesdays and hand out free books, coloring pages, library brochures, Friend's brochures and forms for people to fill out that are interested in becoming a Friend. She adds that membership has doubled to 16 members now. Kathy asks the board to let her know if there is anything the Friends can do.

***Approval of Minutes:***

The board reviewed the minutes from the July 2023 meeting.

M/S/P: Harberts/Stewart

**Reports:**

**Financial:**

The board reviewed the financial reports from July 2023.

- Beth Sorenson points out the first line item on the budget, which is Board Per Diem. The fund is at 108% of the budget already and it's only August. Beth explains that there has been some misunderstandings about the County Commissioner per diem.
  - The County Commissioner packet says that as of January of this year they receive a per diem rate of \$150.00 per day. It was stated that because the library's by-laws do not have a per diem amount listed, that the County Commissioner per diem would come from the library's budget.
  - Beth continues that our by-laws follow Minnesota Statute 375.47, which states that the board of county commissioners of each county can set a reasonable allowance for per diems. At some point the per diem was set at the current \$35.00 per meeting.

- As of February of 2022, the County Commissioners approved the minimum per diem amount to \$75.00, but this information wasn't passed to our board or included in the 2022 or 2023 budgets.
- Beth clarifies that the County Commissioners feel the \$150.00 per diem per meeting is a reasonable amount for attending Library Board meetings, but that is for the Library Board to decide. The Commissioners are also charging \$150.00 per day from the library budget for attending Focus Group meetings for the building project. These meetings are set up by the County Administration and the Commissioners. Discussion points back to Minnesota Statute 375.47, which states, "Members of the board of county commissioners shall not receive any per diem pursuant to this subdivision." Beth is working with different entities to sort out what to do.

M/S/P: Stewart/Harberts

**Claims:**

The board reviewed the claims from July 2023.

M/S/P: Kinser/Stewart

**Circulation:**

The board reviewed the circulation reports from July 2023.

**PCLS Report:**

Bridget Harberts reports that there was not a meeting in July. The next meeting is Wednesday. (August 16, 2023)

**Old Business:**

▪ **Library Remodel - Update**

- Bridget Harberts states that the Focus Group met today and looked at plans for renovating the existing building. She adds that they are making good progress.

**New Business:**

▪ **Branch Librarian Position**

- Beth Sorenson explains that Christy Hornstein in Adrian is currently in a 2/5 position but that she would like her to be considered for a 3/5 position, so that she is eligible for benefits and PTO. Beth adds that Christy makes sure the building is operational, resolves issues, does community outreach, is currently doing two summer reading programs and that she is a good employee. The board moves to increase Christy to 3/5 time.
- M/S/P: Harberts/Kouba

▪ **By-Laws of the Nobles County Library Board – Review**

- The board is instructed to use the by-laws that were handed out at the beginning of the meeting, as the copies included in the board packet were an old version.
- The by-laws aren't due to be reviewed until October, but with the per diem issue being worked on, it was moved up to today's meeting.
- The board changes the wording in Article 5, Section 3.
- The board approves the by-laws with the revisions.
- M/S/P: Kinser/Kouba

▪ **Public Posting and Distribution of Free Materials Policy – Review**

- Beth Sorenson explains to the board that this is a new policy and is about what is hung on the bulletin board by the front door or other materials that may be distributed around the library. The board discusses the policy and agrees that it is a nice guideline of what can or can't be posted or distributed.
- The board approves this policy and will review it again, if needed.
- M/S/P: Stewart/Kouba

**Other:**

▪ **Program Results & Upcoming Events**

- Beth Sorenson informs the board that 364 people attended the Summer Reading Carnival on the library lawn and 53 people attended the Movie Night. The movie was moved inside and attendance may have been lower, as

storms came through with rain and flooded the streets. Beth also points out the dates for the mini book sale and that Adrian had great attendance for Bingo and Climb Theatre.

***Adjournment***

Peg Faber adjourns the meeting 5:44 p.m.

M/S/P: Kouba/Kinser

***Next Meeting:***

Monday, September 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the library's Conference Room #2.

Respectfully submitted, Marci Moshier, Office Support