

Minutes
Nobles County Library Board
Monday, December 11, 2023

- **The following board members were in attendance:** Peg Faber, Bridget Harberts, John Stewart, Jennie Kinser, Katie Kouba and County Commissioner Bob Paplow

- **Absent:**

- **Present library staff:** Library Director Beth Sorenson and Office Support Marci Moshier

- **Others present:** Julie Buntjer (The Globe) and Kathy Craun (Friends of the Library)

Call to Order:

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

Approval of the Agenda:

M/S/P: Stewart/Kinser

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

The board reviewed the minutes from the October 2023 meeting and noted that November's meeting was cancelled.

M/S/P: Kinser/Stewart

Reports:

Financial:

The board reviewed the financial reports from October and November 2023 and the Donation Funds.

M/S/P: Kinser/Harberts

Claims:

The board reviewed the claims from October and November 2023.

M/S/P: Kouba/Stewart

Circulation:

The board reviewed the circulation reports from October and November 2023.

Friends of the Library:

Kathy Craun updated the board that she and treasurer, Paula Stock, have been going through the Friend's finances. She commented that there is an endowment, specified for books and programming, to support the library. They are working on figuring out everything and are working on their budget for 2024, which will be looked at on their January 11th meeting.

PCLS Report:

- Bridget Harberts tells the board that there hasn't been a meeting since October 18th and reminds them that she e-mailed her notes from that meeting to the board. She highlights that Plum Creek had a clean report on their yearly audit, they have the same two weaknesses they see every year, which are limited segregation of duties and auditor prepared financial statements. They are working on getting a more diverse collection, working on marketing and they hired a new Financial Admin., Levi Blanchard. The next Plum Creek meeting is February 21, 2024.
- Kathy Craun added that she is on the Prairielands board, which is the next level up from Plum Creek. They have talked to the Plum Creek Director and are looking at doing a training session or workshop for libraries of how to select and how to find bilingual books, or books in other languages.

Old Business:

- **Library Remodel – Update**

- Peg Faber thanked the board members that were able to take time out of their schedules to interview the staff last week about their thoughts on the building project. Jennie Kinser told the board that they had a lot of good conversations and will take that information to the Focus Group. Bob Paplow asked if more can be shared about what the staff said and Peg questioned him if he could share what the commissioners are willing to do? Bob replied that they're willing to remodel within these walls. There's conversation about the board wanting a budget from the commissioners; if they have an idea of what is available it can change what is done in the renovation. Bob commented that everybody's got a different price on the vision but he wanted to see what the workers want for the building and have the architects throw a price at it. Then the commissioners will decide if it's feasible or not feasible. Discussion turned to the Art Center – whether they would stay in the library or not. It's discussed that the library needs the space and if the Art Center could possibly move in with the Historical Society, that would give the library much more square footage. Bob said the library board could explore that option but he didn't think it would happen. The board decided to have a couple members plan to attend the Art Center's board meeting next week to ask about the possibility, even if it's a no.

New Business:

▪ Donations

- Tricia Mikle donated \$100.00 to go towards supplies for the library's children's activities.
 - *BE IT RESOLVED by the NOBLES COUNTY LIBRARY GOVERNING BOARD that the Nobles County Library does hereby graciously accept the donation of \$100.00 from Tricia Mikle, and further, that the Board does hereby extend its sincere gratitude for the donation. WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at the Nobles County Library Board meeting this December 11, 2023.*
- The Friends of the Library donated \$160.00 for the purchase of backpack kits.
 - *BE IT RESOLVED by the NOBLES COUNTY LIBRARY GOVERNING BOARD that the Nobles County Library does hereby graciously accept the donation of \$160.00 from the Friends of the Library, and further, that the Board does hereby extend its sincere gratitude for the donation. WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at the Nobles County Library Board meeting this December 11, 2023.*
- **2024 Library Board Meeting Dates**
 - The board reviewed the dates for 2024. It's discussed that some Library Board meetings used to be at the Adrian Library, but stopped when the remodel was taking place. The board would like to resume that; the May and October meetings in 2024 will take place in Adrian.
- **2024 Proposed Saturdays near Holidays to Close**
 - The board reviewed the list of Saturdays near holidays. Beth Sorenson has them take a look at a possible policy proposal that would cover Saturday closings and evening hours during the week near holidays. The board would like this policy made and will review it at the next meeting.
- **Library Board Member Vacancy (District 2)**
 - Beth Sorenson updated the board that Christy in Adrian has talked to a couple of people about this position but they dropped out. We will post flyers and advertise for the position. Peg Faber is going to talk to a lady in Adrian as well.

Other:

▪ Program Results & Upcoming Events

- The board reviewed the past program results from October and November and reviewed the upcoming events.

Adjournment

Peg Faber adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. and thanked the board, adding that she truly enjoyed being on the Library Board.

M/S/P: Stewart/Kinser

Next Meeting:

Monday, January 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the library's Conference Room #2.

Respectfully submitted, Marci Moshier, Office Support