

Bridges Library System Board Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2021

PRESENT: In person - Jim Heinrich, Larry Nelson, Linda Ager, Art Biermeier, Howard Pringle, Dick Nawrocki, Joan Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilhelm; Via Zoom - Jean Yeomans, Rose Sura, Amy Reichert

OTHERS: Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System Director; Mellanie Mercier, Bridges Library System Automation Coordinator and Assistant Director; Bruce Gay, Executive Director Waukesha Public Library and Resource Library Representative; Abby Armour, Mukwonago Community Library Director and APL representative; Gerard Saylor, Library Director L.D. Fargo Public Library in Lake Mills, Alex Klosterman, Waukesha County Senior Financial Analyst; Meg Henke, Bridges Library System Department Executive Assistant

Call to order: Linda Ager, the Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in person at the Mukwonago Community Library with optional attendance via Zoom.

Introductions: Introductions were completed after the call to order.

Comments from the Public: None.

Correspondence: None.

Meeting Minutes: A Nawrocki/Biermeier motion to approve the minutes of the May 2021 meeting as presented passed unanimously.

ACTION ON THE BILLS REPORT

Bills Reports: A Pringle/Nawrocki motion to approve the monthly invoices for funds 210 and 215 for June 2021 as submitted passed unanimously.

Financial Reports: A Heinrich/Biermeier motion to accept the financial report ending May 31, 2021 for funds 210 and 215 passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Bridges Director's Report: Karol reported that there was no news on the requested 2022 state aid increase. DPI will be meeting on July 14th to discuss ARPA grant opportunities. The Bader grant ordinance is in process and should be presented at the County Board at the next meeting. Bridges member library circulation is down 20% from 2019 statistics. Other system directors report statewide the circulation numbers are down about 50%. Meg has offered to do limited support for the Library System Board, bills and budgeting until her vacancy is filled.

Bridges Staff: Meg Henke thanked the Board for their service to libraries and indicated she will remain on part-time off business hours to support the bills, Board and 2022 budget process until her successor is hired. She will miss everyone associated with Bridge Library System and has enjoyed her time as a member of the team.

APL: Abby Armour reported APL met on June 11th in person at Pewaukee Library with an option for virtual attendance. They discussed budget reallocation of non-print materials to leverage more digital items in their collections. Lastly, they discussed the 2022 budget.

Resource Library: Bruce Gay reported the first-floor renovation project construction is underway and is going full steam ahead thru February 2022. The 2021 summer library program has started. Patrons are returning to the library in person more each week.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Lakeshores/Bridges Intersystem Agreements 2022 - Karol stated this agreement has a slightly new look with the content/terms remaining the same as past agreements. It reimburses Waukesha County libraries for borrowing by residents of Racine and Walworth Counties who live in municipalities without libraries and use Waukesha County libraries as well as reimbursing Racine and Walworth County libraries for borrowing by residents of Waukesha County who live in municipalities without libraries and use Racine and Walworth County libraries. The 2022 reimbursement is up \$30,000 over last year, likely due to Walworth County library closures during COVID resulting in Walworth residents increased use of Bridges member libraries for circulation of materials. Another factor is the increased cost per circulation. \$229,729 is due to Bridges and Waukesha County will pay \$3,542 to Racine and Walworth County libraries for our cross over borrowing use. A Pringle/Wilhelm motion to approve the 2022 Lakeshores Intersystem Agreements as submitted passed unanimously.

2021 Trustee Appreciation Event Contract – Karol presented the contract with John Chrastka from EveryLibrary Institute for approval. The event is planned to be held virtually on Wednesday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. A discussion was held about how to potentially offer the event as a hybrid style event allowing for some small group social interaction. A Nelson/Nawrocki motion to approve the contract passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee – Karol commented that she and President Linda Ager have been discussing the formation of a Personnel Committee. They attended a training program sponsored by Waukesha County to improve the system's annual employee reviews/ratings as well as develop consistency and standards for defining annual staff salary increases. The bylaws allow for 3 or more-member sub committees to be formed. Linda recommends a group of 5 trustees including the President and 2 representatives from each county, with staggered terms on this committee. If any trustees are interested in participating on this subcommittee, please let Linda know prior to the July meeting. Karol recommended the Board take action on this proposal at the July 2021 meeting.

Grow with Google Advertising report – Karol presented the information created by Marketing Coordinator Jill Fuller. This report summarizes the social media engagement and responses to the Google advertising campaign. Jill learned much more about Google advertising from this project. A job seekers web page on the Bridges website was created specifically for this project.

Next meeting: **July 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.** as a hybrid meeting at **Pewaukee Public Library** and via ZOOM.

At 5:21 p.m., a Biermeier/Wilhelm motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by:
Meg Henke
Administrative Specialist

Respectfully Submitted:
Amy Reichert
Board Secretary