

Bridges Library System Board Meeting Minutes May 18, 2022

PRESENT: IN PERSON: Linda Ager, Art Biermeier, Betsy Forrest, James Heinrich, Richard Nawrocki, Larry Nelson, Amy Reichert, Nancy Wilhelm, Jean Yeomans; VIA ZOOM: Anthony Gulig

EXCUSED: Howard Pringle

OTHERS: Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System Director; Bruce Gay, Waukesha Public Library Executive Director and Resource Library Representative; Melissa Anderson, Jefferson Public Library Director and APL representative; Alex Klosterman, Waukesha County Senior Financial Analyst; Beth North, Bridges Library System Executive Assistant; Gerard Saylor, L.D. Fargo Public Library Director; Betsy Bleck, Oconomowoc Public Library Director

Call to order: Linda Ager, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Introductions: Introductions were completed after the call to order. Karol Kennedy introduced Anthony Gulig as the newest member of the board. Anthony was recently elected to the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors and will be replacing Joan Fitzgerald as our Jefferson County Board appointee.

Comments from the Public: None.

Correspondence: None

Meeting Minutes: A Biermeier/Yeomans motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022, meeting as presented passed unanimously.

ACTION ON THE BILLS REPORT

Bills Reports: A Nawrocki/Biermeier motion to approve the monthly invoices for funds 210 and 215 for April 2022 as submitted passed unanimously.

Financial Reports: A Heinrich/Forrest motion to approve the April 30, 2022, financial report as submitted passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Bridges Director's Report: Karol Kennedy recognized former board member, Joan Fitzgerald, from Jefferson County, for her service to the Bridges Board. Joan was recently appointed to the Jefferson County Executive Committee. Karol thanked Nancy Wilhelm for moderating the May 6th Strategic Plan Retreat. Karol encouraged everyone to listen for Bridges commercials on the B93.3 FM radio station. Karol said that so far 6 of the 16 Waukesha County member library boards have approved the new minimum to exempt standards. State statute requires approval from at least 50% of the library boards in the county, representing 80% of the population of municipalities with libraries.

APL: Melissa Anderson, Jefferson Public Library Director, said there is no APL report as the APL meeting was canceled to allow directors to attend the May 6th Strategic Planning Retreat.

Resource Library: Bruce said that the renovations at the Waukesha Public Library are 95% complete, and a roof replacement is set to begin at the end of May. The Waukesha Public Library Board is set to review the new minimum to exempt standards on May 19th. The Library's capital campaign continues, and Betsy Forrest and Karol Kennedy are both on that committee.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Bridges Virtual/Hybrid Meeting Guidelines: Members expressed value in meeting in person and said how much they enjoy visiting our member libraries. It was also noted, however, that there are situations that may warrant meeting solely via Zoom, such as those months where there are few items on the board agenda, inclement weather, public health crises, etc. In the interest of saving trustee and staff driving time and costs, it was decided that any board meetings that would be switched from hybrid to all virtual would be decided by the board president and director. Karol will investigate the open meetings law public notice requirements and develop guidelines for this process.

Bridges Library System Strategic Plan: Comments were received relative to the May 6th Strategic Planning Retreat. It was noted that a few libraries expressed concern regarding the Hoopla program and how it is difficult to predict usage and the challenge that has on budgeting. Linda asked what the trend was regarding Hoopla, and Mellanie said it appears to be plateauing. There are around 10,000 checkouts per month for all 24 member libraries.

The current strategic plan is valid through the end of 2022. The information gathered at the Retreat will guide the 2023 budget process. It is anticipated a draft strategic plan will be available in August or September. The board and library directors will receive the initial draft so they can provide feedback and help develop the new plan. Karol said she has received some feedback from those who were not able to attend the meeting and invited everyone to continue sharing discussion points and comments with her.

Next meeting: June 15, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. as a hybrid meeting at the Watertown Public Library. The board requested a tour of the new library starting at 3:30 p.m. Bridges staff will work to arrange this.

At 5:14 p.m., a Nawrocki/Wilhelm motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by:
Beth North
Executive Assistant

Respectfully Submitted:
Amy Reichert
Board Secretary