

Bridges Library System Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023 - FINAL

PRESENT: In person: Linda Ager, Art Biermeier, Betsy Forrest, Jim Heinrich, Diane Knutson, Larry Nelson, Amy Reichert, Jean Yeomans Via ZOOM: Robert Kraus

EXCUSED: Nancy Wilhelm

ABSENT: Anthony Gulig

OTHERS: Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System Director; Mellanie Mercier, Bridges Library System Automation Coordinator; Bruce Gay, Waukesha Public Library Executive Director and Resource Library Representative; Gerard Saylor, L.D. Fargo 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.

Comments from the Public: None.

Correspondence: A letter of thanks was received from the Big Bend Village Library Board President for the Bridges Library Innovation Grant funds which were used toward the installation of a digital sign in front of Village Hall.

Meeting Minutes: A Yeomans/Biermeier motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2022, meeting as presented passed unanimously.

ACTION ON THE BILLS REPORT

Bills Reports: A Heinrich/Forrest motion to approve the monthly invoices for funds 210 and 215 for year-end 2022 and January 2023, as submitted passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Bridges Director's Report: Karol reported that the executive assistant position remains unfilled. The position was re-posted. The application period ends January 30. Bridges Library System and the Library Memory Project are being honored with a \$20,000 award from the Family Caregiver Alliance (caregiver.org). The award is funded by the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation as well as Bader Philanthropies, Inc. In addition to the monetary reward, the Family Caregiver Alliance has invited Bridges Library System and the other two award winners, to attend a special donor dinner on March 27 in Atlanta, Georgia, as well as an awards reception in our honor on the evening of March 28. The awards reception is being held in conjunction with the American Society on Aging's On Aging 2023 Conference March 27-30. Karol will attend the events in Atlanta.

Staff Report: None.

APL: There was not an APL representative at the meeting. Karol reported the group elected new officers at the January meeting and set the meeting schedule for 2023. The group discussed annual reports, Library Legislative Day, dealing with difficult staff situations, how libraries are addressing the Fentanyl crisis, and planned giving.

Resource Library: Bruce Gay reported the library has been busy with the hiring process for several open positions.

Nominations Committee: The committee composed for Art Biermeier, Nancy Wilhelm, and Jean Yeomans met in January. After thoughtful consideration, the slate of officers recommended for 2023 is as follows:

President – Linda Ager
Vice-president – Betsy Forrest
Secretary – Jean Yeomans

A Heinrich/Biermeier motion to close nominations passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Election of Officers for 2023: A Nelson/Reichert motion was made to elect by acclamation the 2023 Officers of the Bridges Library System Board naming Linda Ager as President, Betsy Forrest as Vice President, and Jean Yeomans as Secretary; motion passed unanimously.

Library Book Repair Workshop presenter contract: A Yeomans/Biermeier motion was made to approve the Library Book Repair Workshop presenter contract and passed unanimously.

Bridges Library System Strategic Plan 2022 Report: Karol Kennedy reported on 2022 system initiatives and activities completed to achieve strategic objectives and specific strategies outlined in the strategic plan.

Preparing for Library Legislative Day 2023: A discussion was held about the Library Legislative Day experience. At the morning meeting, WLA and LD&L will present talking points and important information for the day. Attendees should prepare to share information about how additional funding in the past budget cycle was used to support library service to patrons and how we might use additional funds in the future. Jill Fuller has created a template for a customizable flyer that may be used by each library to share their impact stories. Bridges trustees who are part of a local library board should reach out to their library director. Jill will also create some for Bridges.

There was some discussion of proposed bill LRB-1095/1 regarding “pupil or minor access to harmful material in public libraries and public schools.” More information will be provided to the board as it becomes available.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 15, at 4:00 p.m. as a hybrid meeting at the Bridges Library System Office.

At 5:14 p.m., a Biermeier/Knutson motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by:
Karol Kennedy
System Director

Respectfully Submitted:
Amy Reichert
Board Secretary