

EDWIN A. BEMIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2016

The Edwin A. Bemis Public Library Board met in regular session on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, in the Conference Room at the library, 6014 S. Datura St. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT: Paul Bingham
Lisa Ohlgren, Chair
Alicia Rudnicki
Dawn Shepherd
Donna Thenell
Cecile Tobey

THOSE ABSENT: Cathy Schwartz

ALSO PRESENT: Phyllis Larison, Deputy Director
Meredith Gipson, Recording Secretary

1. ROLL CALL

A quorum was determined present and the meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. MINUTES

ACTION: APPROVED

Ms. Shepherd asked that the minutes of the July 6, 2016 be corrected to indicate that she did not get to visit the interior of the Lake Geneva Library in Wisconsin, only that the exterior was spectacular and overlooked the lake. The minutes were approved as corrected.

3. AGENDA

ACTION: APPROVED

The agenda was approved as written.

4. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no unscheduled public appearances.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Ms. Larison reminded the board that the volunteer appreciation luncheon is held in October and the board members usually provide the decorations and help set up the room. The luncheon is scheduled for October 26 and Ms. Larison has arranged for the speaker, Kurtis Kelly, and the caterer, Strawberries. Ms. Tobey asked if the volunteers receive any gifts. Ms. Larison explained that there have been gifts in the past, just not in the past couple years. There was discussion on what gift might be appropriate and within the budget.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Larison reported on behalf of Mr. Nimz, who is on vacation. A status quo budget for the museum and library was presented to the department heads, who met to review the budget requests for all departments. It was a challenging budget overall to balance given the issue with sustaining the capital fund past 2021 and there has been a lot of public pressure to improve streets and roads. At the July 19 meeting, City Council appointed Public Works Director Mark Relph as acting city manager until a permanent city manager can be hired. Council also directed HR to develop an RFP for hiring an executive search firm to assist with hiring the new city manager, and the entire hiring process is anticipated to take six to nine months. The departments have been divided so that some report to Mr. Relph and some to Deputy City Manager Mike Braaten. The Aging Well Resource Center, which is housed at the library, was moved into the library department and will now fall under the supervision of Mr. Nimz.

Ms. Larison reported that the summer reading programs were very successful. The adult program had a 15% increase in participants and 87% of them signed up online. Ms. Larison mentioned that the library is part of the Pokemon Go virtual game as a Pokemon Stop, and the library is trying to capitalize on that by encouraging players to come into the library to pick up a Pokemon figure and bookmark. Ms. Larison said there were large crowds at the Secret to iPhone Photos and the Legendary Ladies programs. Also, over 70 people participated in the cookbook exchange, which is a new program the library tried this year.

Ms. Larison mentioned that the upcoming programs include the two big outdoor music concerts, free Legal Night, and the winners of the Lego building contest will be announced this Saturday at the Lego City event.

Ms. Larison reported that Bemis has once again won a state grant for literacy materials in the amount of \$12,175.

Ms. Larison is looking into a subscription to Brain HQ or similar website. Recent studies have shown that doing brain puzzles might reduce dementia in seniors.

Ms. Ohlgren asked about the State Park backpacks program. Ms. Larison said that it has turned out to be very popular and eighteen people are currently on the hold list for the backpack that includes a free admission pass to any Colorado state park.

8. ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Shepherd suggested that the Friends of the Library president be invited to talk to the board about what they do.

Ms. Tobey asked about programs for toddlers and wondered how much emphasis is made by the library to promote reading for that age group. Ms. Larison mentioned that the children's room has a very strong literacy program that includes all age groups, even infants.

Ms. Rudnicki suggested that children's include finger play story times. She mentioned that she also researched the Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) program and talked about the variety of programs she found related to it. One program coordinated with the local zoo and Ms. Rudnicki suggested that this would be adaptable to our own museum. In North Carolina, parents design their own DEAR program. She suggested a day in April where all ages are invited to participate and parents are given information on starting their own DEAR program; also, perhaps a program at the museum in the summer.

Mr. Bingham commented that he had a conversation with a patron in front of the library who was playing Pokemon Go with his daughter. Ms. Ohlgren commented that she likes that the players have to be active to play the game.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Meredith Gipson
Recording Secretary