

SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8AM

Board Members Present: Nancy Lamberty, Stephanie Croston, Juanita Hill (remote attendance), Jerry Pfabe (remote attendance), and Bob Dahms
Absent: None
Also Becky Baker, Library Director

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting the notice of such meeting, with the agenda thereon, in the following places: City Hall, Seward Municipal Building, and the Seward Memorial Library. Notice of this meeting was simultaneously given to all members of the Library Board. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER & RECOGNITION OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT AVAILABILITY

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Juanita Hill, who highlighted the availability of the Open Meetings Act.

2. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Programs:

No children's in-person programs will be held at SML in January. Zoom Story Time starts next week on Wednesday mornings and afternoons. Discussion is still underway about what to do with older children. Book group attendance is undecided as of this week but attendees do prefer in person for discussions. This will depend on whether or not the library is open to the public. Staff has five major presenters planned for summer, with fingers crossed that summer programs will take place in 2021!

This month's book group choices:

Midday Mysteries: Breaking Creed by Alex Kava
Best of NYT: North River by Pete Hamill
Random Reads: The Bartender's Tale by Ivan Doig

The Library sent out 129 Leading to Reading cards last month.

Operations:

Personnel: Staff remains short one full-time and two part-time workers as of today. A working schedule for January/February with these shortages has been created and will be put into place when the library doors open to the public again. Staff considers re-opening each Friday after Four Corners updates their risk dial; the number of available staff also plays a part in this process. Once a decision is made to re-open, all staff will be alerted to the decision that will go into effect the following Monday. The public will be informed of the re-opening date using all available avenues of communication.

Holiday Schedule: The library will be closed on January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Fiscal Year Report: Staff continues to work on a pictograph version of the 2019-2020 annual report. It is likely the 10 year comparison sheet will not be included with what is shared with the City Council in February, as last fiscal year (and potentially the current one) will be out of the ordinary and not comparable. Baker will present this report to the City Council next month.

Collection Updates: Staff is taking advantage of locked doors to update the nonfiction sections. Politics will become Government/Politics, a History section will be added, and the remaining U.S. items will now be integrated into the World section. Staff believes this will help both shelvers and browsers.

Statistics:

Circulation for December was down 1,769 from last year and was down 1,019 from last month. Overdrive numbers for December were not yet available, but November's numbers for Seward were up four from October and 305 from last year. November Overdrive ILL numbers were also up, 178 higher from October and 255 more from last year.

Total collection now numbers 57,554.

Attendance for December was down from last year by 3,477 and down from last month by 971, due mainly to the library closing doors to the public on December 9 for the rest of the month.

Computer use was down 166 from last year and down 46 from last month. Wireless use was up 3,822 from last year and up 1,342 from last month.

Window use was up 690 from last year and up 350 from last month. Positive comments about having the window available were made.

The Library Board commended the entire library staff for their work throughout the pandemic.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

Lamberty moved to approve the consent items. Pfabe seconded the motion. Voting aye: Croston, Lamberty, Pfabe, Dahms, and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Croston, Secretary