

SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8AM

Board Members Present: Juanita Hill, Jerrald Pfabe, Bob Dahms, Nancy Lamberty and Stephanie Croston

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:

Jerry Pfabe spoke to about 15 folks on Sunday, November 21, covering lesser known crimes in Seward County, 1919-1948. Staff believes the time of year kept some from attending.

This past Saturday around 280 children and adults enjoyed the crafts the library offered as part of Seward's Christmas Festival.

Instead of escape rooms over the upcoming holiday break, staff is offering a "Pick Your Own Path" adventure for participants of all ages, but mostly for youth. This is a new venture so extensive evaluation will take place by staff in January. It involves a lot less set-up than escape rooms would have, so it works better for the short vacation time frame.

Staff is discussing offering Toddler Time on Tuesday mornings and Preschool Story Time on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, one session each morning with no registration. We are thinking this may better fit how families operate now. Afterschool programs will shift to a Monday-Thursday schedule instead of Tuesday-Friday and will include two different LEGO® sessions for various ages, as well as Tinker Tuesdays and Chess which were popular this past fall.

A second patron is interested in donating towards the cost of diversity speakers so that the library can host these programs more often, but staff is wondering if having too many would make the events seem routine. I suggested to both donors that Board members may have a better sense of what an ideal number of diversity presentations per year would be. The consensus of the Board was to try three speakers for the first year and gauge the success of this schedule before making any final determination.

Book groups meeting in December are reading A Week in Winter by Maeve Binchy (the last meeting of the NYTimes Bestseller group), Silent Night by Mary Higgins Clark (Midday Mysteries), and The White Christmas Inn by Colleen Wright (Random Reads). The new book group, Reader's Choice, will meet in January for an organizational meeting only with no shared reading. Joanna Treas will lead this group.

Operations:

Personnel: Charlotte Baldinger's last day of work will be January 14. Cindy Voehl is working closely with Charlotte now to get a better sense of the job, especially the delivery aspect.

Building: Drywall repair and painting still needs to be done, though staff has been waiting for some moisture to make sure the leaks are truly repaired. An ad for the children's area shelving improvements should be in the local paper today.

December Schedule: The library will be closed December 24-26 and December 31-January 2, per Board vote from a year ago.

Statistics:

November statistics are not yet available since this meeting is being held on Dec. 1. Both November and December statistics will be reviewed at the January 2022 board meeting.

3. 2022 CALENDAR

Baker presented a draft of the 2022 calendars with both City holidays and staff requested closing dates (i.e. Easter) indicated. After review, Pfabe moved to adopt this calendar. Lamberty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Pfabe, Lamberty, Dahms, Croston and Hill. Voting nay: None. Absent and not voting: None.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Croston, Secretary