Unapproved Minutes of Owatonna Public Library Board of Trustees

Owatonna Public Library, Gainey Room

105 North Elm Ave.

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:30pm

The Owatonna Public Library Board of Trustees held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. In attendance were President Meredith Erickson, Vice President John Pfeifer, Trustee Trudy Severson, Trustee Christy Tryhus, Trustee Karin Malin and Library Director Mark Blando.

1. Call to Order

   The meeting was called to order by President Erickson at 4:30pm.

2. Reminder of Open Meeting Law

   The open meeting law applies to the board meetings

3. Public Comments

   No Public Comments

4. Approve Minutes

   Malin moved, Pfeifer seconded to approve the minutes of the April 2020 meeting. The motion was approved.

5. Financial Report

   After 5 ½ months the budget is on track for the year. Blando will be submitting the 2021 budget request at the end of the month. The library recently had its fire doors repaired. We are also looking at fixing the roof leak that has reappeared.

6. Children’s Services Report for March-May 2020

   See attached document.

7. Library Use Report
a. Upcoming Programs

The Zoo Man was able to film his presentation as part of the Owatonna/Blooming Prairie Summer Reading Kickoff. We continue to look for online/virtual programming as part of our summer reading offerings. I am working on videos focused on what the staff is reading/watching/listening to. I hope to develop this into a monthly show to air on the PAC.

8. SELCO Update

SELCO looks to spend funds that were saved over the past months into other areas including a new mobile app, downloadable magazines and more Overdrive content. The new ILS agreement was sent out to libraries to look over.

9. Library Updates

Our no-contact materials pick up continues to be very popular. We have expanded our hours to include Tuesday/Thursday from 4pm-6pm. The next step in our opening process may be to offer limited Internet service. This would have to take place after our protective barriers are in place. Staff is working on a plan on how the library space will look once public is allowed into the building. The raised garden beds constructed by Eagle Scout Alex Lowery have been installed in the garden area. We are looking at grant opportunities to help with the construction of a boardwalk path and other improvements to the space.

10. Renovation Update
We are in the process of acquiring bids for our bathroom project on the third floor. In the next month, we also hope to look traffic patterns as they relate to the proposed book drop on the north side of the building.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Tryhus and seconded by Malin. All aye. The meeting adjourned at 5:25pm

Submitted by Mark Blando
Children’s Services  
March 2020 to present

Storytime was held six times the first two weeks of March. The attendance for those Storytimes was 80 children and adults.

Joan Rasmussen held Storytime at Tri-Valley Head Start on Wednesday, March 11th. She read stories to a group of 19 children and teachers.

Then the world was turned upside down!

We turned to Facebook Live for online Storytime. From March 23-27, we filmed four different Storytimes using Facebook Live. We also filmed one YouTube video of stories being read.

For the older children, Facebook Live was utilized to read a chapter book. Newbery winning Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan was read, three chapters at a time, twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Starting the first week of April, Storytime became more regularly scheduled. It was recorded Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM. Between April 2 and May 21, 15 different Storytimes were done on Facebook Live.

After a one week break, Storytime on Facebook Live began again on Tuesday, June 2. It will be held two times a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings throughout the summer.

In May, we took part in One Book | One Minnesota by reading this year’s selection Because of Winn-Dixie, an award winning chapter book, written by Kate DiCamillo. One Book | One Minnesota is a statewide book club that invites Minnesotans of all ages to read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss. Four chapters were read each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon for 3 weeks.

The theme for the Summer Reading Program this summer is “Imagine Your Story. On what would have been 2020’s Kick-Off day, June 5, The Zoo Man, Brent Mielke came to the library to perform his animal program for our Facebook Live audience. He introduced the audience to four snakes, as well as, a tortoise and its baby.
On Monday, June 15, a Summer Reading Challenge on Beanstack was introduced to the community as a way for kids and adults to keep track of their reading this summer. “Readers of all ages can register in seconds as individuals or as a family. Beanstack makes it easy for them to earn virtual badges, tickets for drawings, and real-world prizes by keeping track of their reading.” (Beanstack.com). On Monday, 163 people registered for the Summer Reading Program via Beanstack. Paper reading logs are also available for those without the technology available to complete a virtual reading log.

Darla Lager
June 12, 2020