

Duluth Public Library Board Minutes
January 24, 2023

Present: Michelle Foshay, Susan Henke, Lori Steinbach, Matt Rosendahl, Stephen Welsh, Lizzy Luoma, Bill Arezzo.

Also in attendance: Library Manager Carla Powers, Duluth Library Foundation Executive Director Erin Kreeger, City Councilor Noah Hobbs, Debbie Rasmussen from League of Women Voters.

Not present: Betty Ramsland, David Sperl.

Chair Foshay called the meeting to order at 4:30.

Welcome and introductions

Review and approve agenda: Unanimously approved via consensus.

Approve minutes of September 27, 2022 meeting: Motion by Arezzo, seconded by Steinbach, to approve minutes as drafted. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Library Manager's Report: Powers noted that the library is nearly fully staffed, and as a follow-up to this note and the report, Henke inquired about ECRD staffing. Powers noted that there will not be an AmeriCorps position in ECRD at this time.

Foundation Report: This report was omitted in exchange for the presentation of the foundation's Strategic Plan later in the meeting.

Friends Report: Powers reported that the Friends office moved in order to help the Foundation with its increase in staffing and the Friends' need for storage. The Friends are investigating a "Friends Store." The Friends are raising funds and passing onto the library (including another \$10,000 contribution) and library leadership is discussing how to best use the funds.

Old Business

Board Recruitment: David Sperl's term ends in March. Foshay noted that we should have a link on the library website to help recruit a diversity of individuals from the community. Foshay said she would email city councilors and Human Rights Officer Carl Crawford about these opportunities. Hobbs noted that Duluth has a comparatively large number of boards and commissions for a city of our size, and noted that the challenges the library board has experienced with recruitment has been felt by others. Luoma asked if board recruitment could happen at programming. Kreeger suggested contacting NAACP about putting a message out to their membership.

Strategic Planning: Powers reported that the first steering committee was held the previous week. All members attended and reviewed the work plan. The committee brainstormed community leaders and potential focus groups to be interviewed for input into the plan. Henke asked if the safety consultant report informs a facility plan or the strategic plan and Powers replied that it more informs the facility plan. The steering committee will meet again in late February.

Main Library facility update: The Request for Proposals for pre-design and for community engagement were issued with a deadline of January 27.

New Business

Duluth Library Foundation Strategic Plan: Kreeger shared the foundation's strategic plan, which was received with appreciation and support by board members.

Ongoing Business

Advocacy: Hobbs inquired how much money would be needed for the library's collection budget to keep up with inflation and Powers estimated an additional \$50,000. Hobbs said he'd like to include this in budgets in September when the council sets the maximum levy. Board members discussed the support received from and funding provided to Arrowhead Library System.

Adjournment at 5:35 p.m.