

Duluth Public Library Board
Minutes of October 25, 2022 Meeting

Attendees: Michelle Foshay, Susan Henke, Betty Ramsland, Lori Steinbach, Matt Rosendahl

Also present: Carla Powers, Carmella Hatch, Jim Filby Williams, Cortney Buchholz

Absent: Steve Welsh, David Sperl, Lizzy Luoma, Bill Arezzo

Call to order: Chair Foshay called the meeting to order at 4:31.

Welcome and introductions: Cortney Buchholz, Community Coordinator from Human Development Center, provided an overview of the Mobile Crisis Center and its work with the library. This Center is active throughout South St. Louis County, and has a goal to de-escalate situations and get help for people. She will start doing Mental Health First Aid training at the library in November for staff. One of the crisis staff is on site at the downtown library 2-5 p.m. M-F (unless they are needed elsewhere). The Safety Specialist has been able to work with this staff collaboratively, and has contacted HDC for help when needed. This is a pilot program to see what it is like to have a social worker on site in the library.

Review and approve agenda: Motion by Ramsland, seconded by Steinbach, to approve the agenda as drafted. Motion approved unanimously.

Approve minutes of September 27, 2022 meeting: Motion by Ramsland, seconded by Steinbach, to approve the minutes as drafted. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports

Library Manager's Report: Powers reported that the meeting pod has been ordered and is large enough for two people to meet privately. City Council budget presentation has been changed to Thursday, November 17 after the agenda session which starts at 5:15 p.m. Only the library will present on this night.

Foundation strategic planning retreat update: Rosendahl reported that the Foundation Board met for a retreat and discussed its survey results and refining that feedback toward a new strategic plan.

Friends report: Ramsland reported that members of the Friends are taking advantage of the DECC's new program where nonprofits can have volunteers work at the concession stand, and 100% of their hourly pay will be donated to the nonprofit. The Friends are planning their Littlest Holiday Booksale at Mt. Royal on November 29, 30, and December 1.

Old Business

Social worker pilot project: The board thanked Jim Filby Williams for helping to bring this project to the library.

Main Library facility update: Filby Williams met with Mayor Larson and the city's lobbyist to encourage the team to examine if there is a way to tap into state bonding support. Powers is developing a proposal describing the "regionality" of DPL's services, and Filby Williams is going to see if Workforce Development could do the same. Projects for bonding support in the 2024 session need to be defined to the pre-design level by July 2023. If we were to pursue 2024 bonding, the city would need to undertake a broad and intensive planning process from now until June.

New Business

2023 library fee schedule: Powers outlined staff recommendations to keep the fees largely the same for 2023. One potential increase is for meeting room use by for-profit organizations. Although the meeting rooms do not get a lot of use by businesses, it does happen occasionally. Motion by Rosendahl, seconded by Ramsland, to approve the fee schedule as presented, Motion approved unanimously.

Ongoing Business

Advocacy: The members of various boards will be notified about the upcoming budget presentation. This Friday is the security assessment presentation online. The meeting will be recorded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.