

W.J. Niederkorn Library
Library Board Meeting
Minutes
Friday, November 19, 2021, 8:30 AM
W.J. Niederkorn Library Community Room

1. Roll call: Justin Ritter, Nikki Nelson, Hannah Cassidy, Pat Tearney, and Tom Hudson. Also attending: Library Director Tom Carson, Assistant Library Director Rosalia Slawson, and President of the Friends of the Library Kathleen Schilz. Not present: Joanna Bannon.

Meeting was called to order at 8:32am by Board President Justin Ritter

2. No correspondence.

3. No public comment.

4. Approval of minutes: Hudson made a motion to accept the October 2021 minutes, Tearney seconded. Passed.

5. Approval of schedule of invoices: Carson explains we are \$10-13,000 over in the budget this year due to a health insurance miscalculation as well as our revenue down this year. He will be meeting with City Administrator Brown to go over this next week.

6. Approval of revenue and expense report: Hudson made a motion to accept the schedule of invoices and revenue and expense report for October 2021. Nelson seconded. Passed.

7. 2022 Library Budget: The 2022 City Budget was approved by City Council on Tues night. Carson completed a report for the city and thanks Rosalia, Jamie, and Katie for their help. Mending the library garden retaining wall was taken out of the City Budget. The quote we received was for \$85,000.

8. W.J. Niederkorn Library Foundation: Carson explains that everything is set to go with the Foundation, and now the Library Board just needs to approve the application. Board President Ritter and Library Director Carson will sign it. The plan is to let the Foundation make some revenue for a few years before we spend from it. We can also apply for Greater Milwaukee Foundation grants that we qualify for; they want to diversity who they give to (including outside of Milwaukee County). Friends President Schilz asks if the W.J. Niederkorn name is forever or if it can be changed in future; Hudson responded it could be changed in future and if so, it is a simple switch for the Foundation name. Tearney made a motion to accept the Greater Milwaukee Foundation application. Hudson seconded. Passed.

9. Usage statistics: Numbers are looking good

10. Director's Report: Tearney is complementary of the Racial Justice and Implicit Bias series that wrapped up last night (Nov 18). He said there were great presenters and dialogue, and it got him thinking about things. Carson says we, the library, would like to keep it going. He would like to do a series on joy (including puppies and kittens) and maybe another Big Read.

- Library flat roof is being replaced. Project started this week. It's a bit loud but going well.
- Another request from local sculptor to display work here this winter (like last year). It is another piece portraying people experiencing homelessness (this time a mother and a child). It is currently on display at MIAD in Milwaukee. Carson will send the information to the Library

Board. There was positive feedback about the last sculpture, and it's good to raise awareness. The sculptor will provide an artist statement, and he is happy to answer any questions.

- New computers for the public have been installed upstairs. They are nice and fast.
- Still waiting to hear from the state about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants. There are four categories we may receive funding for (some solo applications from our library and some joint effort with Monarch Library System):
 - 1) Additional self check-out machine for upstairs
 - 2) Outdoor locker pickup system
 - 3) Updated Community Room technology
 - 4) Outreach van

11. Other

- Ritter received a question last month about why the Library Board meets in the daytime in the morning. It has been this way since he's been on the Board. He also conferred with a former Board member for further information. She said that historically the reason it's been at 8:30am on a Friday morning is it fit the schedule well of the Board members, most of whom were retired. It also worked well for the School District representative, Library Director, and City Council representative based on their schedules and other evening meetings. It also works well for parents who often have evening activities with kids already.
 - Would it be better for the public if we moved the time? It's hard to say. Tearney says that with City meetings, it doesn't seem to matter what time the meetings are, there typically are not many members of the public attending (unless there is a popular/hot button topic on the agenda). Ritter says we'll see what happens in the coming years with the future plans for the library – we may end up seeing more of the public at our meetings.
- Carson reports that there have been more book challenges happening in library collections, especially in Texas right now. There have been some challenges in our system, too. We have great support with DPI and ALA. Carson wants the Board to be aware though. We do have a Collection Development Policy and a Reconsideration Policy with a process for people wanting to submit challenges. Challenges for digital materials are a little more complicated. Carson agrees with the statement, 'If we don't have something in our collection to offend everyone, we're not doing our job.'

12. Adjournment at 9:00am with a motion by Tearney.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rosalia Slawson, Assistant Library Director