

Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees
April 6th, 2022

A meeting of the Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees was held
Wednesday April 6th, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Present: The following members of the Library Board were present at the library: X Cretzmeyer, Amanda Elkins, Deborah Hatz, Keith Jones, Pat Kenner, Shaner Magalhães, Bob Turnquist. Also present: Alison Ames Galstad (Library Director), Ellen Alexander (Assistant Library Director), Hai Huynh (City Council Representative), Kayla Cook (CPL Staff member).

Absent:. None

President Elkins called the meeting to order at 6:00. She wished everyone Happy National Library Week.

The Board considered approval of the agenda. Hatz motioned approval of the agenda, Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the minutes of the March 2022 meeting. Jones moved that the minutes be approved as presented, Kenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the bills for March. Elkins asked what FEH is. Galstad explained that they are the architectural firm working on a redesign of children's (done), teen & reference, and café areas. Kenner asked what Micromarketing is – Galstad explained that we purchase audio CDs and replacement CDs from them. Cretzmeyer asked about Blackstone, and Galstad said we also buy audiobooks from them. Hatz moved that the bills be approved as presented, Kenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kayla Cook gave the staff report, and talked about the Seed Library, which she started. She started the seed library last year and got initial seeds from Seed Savers. Also some seeds were donated by patrons. Last year had 79 packets, which Kayla broke down and circulated as 468 packets. As of today, this year we have received 164 donations, created 823 packets to give away. When a donation comes in, Kayla separates it into more manageable packets, writes instructions on how to grow the particular seed to stick on the packet. She does ask those who are donating to fill out a donation slip to gather information about the seeds. This year we are using a small card catalog to store packets that are available for giveaway. Kayla had been enjoying getting to talk to more people this year about it! The idea is to build community through outdoors, growing, etc. As a way to expand the project a little this year, we will have a table at the city's recycle swap day for people to leave and take seeds or plants. She has also been trying to set up a program about simple gardening. Solon and Ely Public Libraries have seed libraries, as does Washington Public Library. According to seedlibrary.net, there are around 500 registered in the world, around 21 in Iowa. Cretzmeyer asked how many different plants? 164 varieties. Huynh asked when Kayla starts and ends having seeds available. She tries to start early spring, will go until run out of seeds (usually summer). She will then request seeds saved as donations in the fall.

The Board went into the Library proper to look at the seed library, then proceeded to the west wing to hear about renovation plans, and then to the café to hear about renovation plans for that area. We also discussed plans for the café area including the Community Navigator position (awaiting approval & posting of the job description by the city), and the Community Refrigerator.

Cretzmeyer gave a report on behalf of the Friends. They have decided to run all book sales on a donation basis rather than having set prices. The next book sale will be May 6-7th, and they have moved the time of their sales to start an hour earlier. The Friends are looking for a Volunteer Coordinator. Baby Book Bags have been replaced by CPL's partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on April 21st at 6:30.

The Foundation Board has not met and did not have a report.

Galstad gave the Director's Report. There was a significant increase in circulation from last year, and the ratio of physical items to digital items remains steady at around 73%. Turnquist asked to see comparisons to pre-pandemic statistics, which we will work on. Kenner asked if there is a place to donate on the website yet, and Galstad said that a link for online donations to the Foundation has been set up on the website. The Foundation has started receiving some donations through this link.

Meeting Room use is going up. Wee Read will return in person. We still have COVID test kits, but demand has decreased dramatically. There is a leak in the rotunda ceiling, and there is another leak by the magazine area, a return of a problem leak area. Galstad will get McComas Lacina to take a look.

As far as external space, Galstad has been in on meetings with Shive Hattery, who are working on streetscape improvements along 5th Avenue from 10th to 20th Ave. Confluence has been hired to work on reimagining the green civic campus stretch from the CCPA through S.T. Morrison Park along 5th Street. We had a great staff in-service on March 10th, including working on identifying some initiatives from the strategic plan. Eight staff members recently took part in a Library Journal online class called How to Build an Anti-Racist Library Culture. It inspired some great conversation and has been informing planning.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00.

The next meeting will be Wednesday May 4th, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Alexander
Assistant Library Director
(Subject to approval at the May 2022 meeting.)