

**Coralville Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**July 6, 2022**

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

**Present:** The following members of the Library Board were present at the library: X Cretzmeyer, Amanda Elkins, Deborah Hatz, Pat Kenner, Bob Turnquist. Also present: Ellen Alexander (Assistant Library Director), Hai Huynh (City Council Representative), Samira Abdalla (Community Resources Navigator), Keith Jones.

**Absent:** Shaner Magalhães, Alison Ames Galstad.

President Elkins called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Jones made some remarks about his recent appointment to City Council. He is very happy for this opportunity, but will miss being a part of the CPL board. He said it has been an honor to serve on the CPL board for 35 years.

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

The Board considered approval of the minutes of the June 2022 meeting. Turnquist moved that the minutes be approved, Kenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered approval of the bills for July. There was a question about that the US Cellular bill was for – Alexander explained that it is for service for the hotspots. Twenty were just added to the collection. Elkins asked what OCLC is – it is a service by which we get access to the database used for interlibrary loans outside the state. Cretzmeyer asked why there is always a list of Baker and Taylor charges rather than one sum listed to be paid. Alexander explained that this is a list of the individual invoices we receive from them. Kenner asked what FindAway is – this is the company from which we purchase PlayAways (the pre-loaded electronic audio books). We are also looking into purchasing picture books loaded with an audio to read along. Turnquist asked about the invoice from Yellowbook. This is for advertising, but he questioned if the Yellowbook is used any more. Cretzmeyer moved that the bills be approved as presented, Kenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Samira Abdalla, Community Resources Navigator, gave the staff report. She explained her personal and professional history: she immigrated from Ethiopia with her family when she was 8 years old, went through the ICCSD and graduated from West High. She received her undergraduate degree in Public Health from the University of Iowa and is just finishing her Masters Degree in Public Health as well. She worked for the University doing addiction counseling with students and worked for the Johnson County Public Health Department doing contact tracing. She has been providing one-on-one assistance for some library patrons already, including job searching and connecting with some social services. In the future she will begin working on setting up the Community Ambassador Program.

Alexander updated the Board on the 2022 Summer Reading Programs.

Galstad updated the Board on the Community Resources Navigator position and the Community Fridge. We interviewed three candidates for the position (a fourth cancelled and we were not able to reschedule an interview). We have let one know that they are our top choice and are waiting for one more reference. The Community Fridge opened last Friday after the pantry had no food earlier in the week. Huynh reported that it has been going very well – the pantry had to restock Saturday and again on Tuesday morning. Restocking

takes between 20 minutes and a half an hour. Kenner asked what is being stocked – it has been premade salads, sandwiches, fruits, yogurts. The hope is that once the new pantry is going, more items can be prepared there to help stock. Kenner asked about how people can donate if they'd like to. We did talk with the architects working on the revision of space about a secure, out of the way box to accept donations, but Huynh really stressed that a lot of the goal is to destigmatize the idea of taking food. People can always donate to the pantry, but everyone is encouraged to use the fridge.

There was no Friends report, as they have not met.

There was no Foundation report.

Galstad gave the Director's Report. Statistics are in the board packet. Alexander pulled comparable statistics from May of 2019 rather than last year to show how current statistics compare to pre-pandemic. We have been busy, but use of the library has shifted some. Laptops were only for use within the building pre-pandemic, now they are available in-house as well as for checkout. Circulation is comparable, with 74% of circulation being physical items. All digital use is higher than it was in 2019. More people were in the building. We are starting to see larger meetings again. The first ELL class back in the building since the pandemic was held last night, with 6 people attending.

Staff met with a digital signage designer and got quotes for two different packages. Both quotes are in the \$60-65,000 range, which is more than we were anticipating.

There will be a Community Meal on the library lawn on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30. The Food Pantry is making kabobs and Miriam Girls Club, Grow Johnson County, and the Iowa City Bike Library will be on the lawn with activities. The West High group Cadenza will be performing.

Elkins asked about the book bike. It has been shipped, and we are hoping it arrives this week. Kate Dale is working with a local vendor to get a vinyl decal of the logo as the manufacturer was unable to do that part.

The next meeting will be on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58.

Respectfully submitted,

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