

Minutes of the Ellsworth Public Library board of Trustees

FEBRUARY 21,2023 / 6:30 PM /

ATTENDEE

Sarah Lesko,Craig MacDonald, Kathleen Cravens,Judith Lyes,Spencer Patterson King, EXCUSED Absence Kristin Onos

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Craig MacDonald at 6:30 pm

Public Comment

No public was present

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of January 17,2023 meeting
- Financial Reports and Planning
- Building and Grounds Report

A motion was made by Spencer and seconded by Judi to approve the consent agenda and motion carried. In the discussion prior to the approval the Board acknowledged what a great job Sarah was doing noting the uptick in our activities and presence on Social networks and her continued networking throughout the community. Also noted was the expanded newsletter and calendar to which Sarah expressed her goal to have the calendar ready by a month ahead. She also shared the response to her shout out to the home schoolers and how well this was appreciated .She is working with the Friends to provide learning kits for check out for home use ie chemistry phonics and other ideas.

Friends of the Library Report

Sarah attended the Friends meeting on 2/1/23. Minutes from the Friends are enclosed. They were very receptive to her idea of a Credit card and immediately took action to make that happen. This will make it so much easier for staff to obtain craft and other supplies with ease. They will also set up a Google doc with requests from the friends. The Friends also are giving each of the employees a \$40.00 gift certificate in recognition for National Library Week. They will each choose a book and it will be given a name plate in their honor. The staff was very pleased with this gesture.

Old Business

Budget was submitted early and meeting with City is Friday. We all hope for a positive outcome.

Unfinished Business

Sarah reviewed her progress with the Strategic plan. She has met with staff and the Heart of Ellsworth and provided us with the questionnaire that will be used. Her goal is to receive 300 responses but would love 500. We all then discussed various outlets to distribute the questionnaire including Town Offices, Community Closet Ellsworth American etc. Sarah shared a sample of a table tent that will be used for advertising. She will also link it to the City facebook page and Downtown Ellsworth page also. The first Community Focus GROUP IS MARCH 8TH.

Edmund's 30TH Anniversary was then discussed. Edmund was acknowledged for his years of service at the City Council meeting earlier this month. Sarah, Craig and Judi attended. It was decided to give Edmund a framed picture of the library in bloom as a gift from the Board. Craig will look into finding the appropriate picture and we will contribute to framing it.

Sarah then reported on her research into Overdrive/Libby. She has contacted Mike from Overdrive and he has offered to help Sarah establish a consortium if she finds that is the direction we will go. He informed her that presently only 10 libraries in the state use this platform. She explained to us that the benefits of Overdrive as opposed to Cloud Library is that Overdrive allows readers to use Kindles and Cloud does not. Also Overdrive has a larger collection. She will continue to collect information on the platforms and reports again next month. She has arranged an upcoming meeting at the Bangor

Library for herself and several staff and will use this opportunity to inquire what they like and dislike about Overdrive.

New Business

Sarah reported that she had just completed a weedout of the juvenile section and to her amazement she found 570 books have not been checked out since 2020. She noted that there are many reasons for this including COVID, kids are not reading books etc. However she then asked for our input regarding providing library cards to Ellsworth high School students. This discussion has many unanswered questions as some of the students are not Ellsworth residents so technically they would need to buy a card. We all had opinions and suggestions regarding this and decided we would collect more information such as how many students are we talking about, could we ask the friends to underwrite this cost. In the meantime she will reach out to Katie Hessler the school librarian and explore ideas together with Kelley.

Sarah also asked for our input into her idea of a Saturday morning Brunch to honor all the hard work the Friends do for us. We volunteered to assist her with this and suggested maybe an early May date might be a possible timeline. She is also working herself on a gift to acknowledge Gene and Melanie's contributions.

Staffing update was given by Sarah: James has resigned as of March 29th. He loves the job here but the salary is not sustainable to live on. We will miss him and wish him well with his new job. Ailene is willing to pick up some of those hours and going forth we will re evaluate what to do with that position once we know our budget.

Executive session per MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, Sec 406, Paragraph 6A To discuss employment matters

Nothing to discuss

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 Next Meeting March 21st at 6:30 pm

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Cravens, Secretary

