

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2024 GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Present:

Board Members: Jeff Kelley, Suzanne Myers, Mary Robinson, Kirstee Moore Schutte, Kim Walker

Library Director: Christie Clarke

Absent:

City Council Liaison: Rebecca Shields

Foundation Liason: Jay Skiles

Kelley called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Attention was called to the posting of The Open Meetings Act - NEB.REV.STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14.

As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room. Agenda items may be moved up or down on the agenda at the discretion of the Board President. As required by State Law, additions may not be made to this agenda less than 24 hours before the beginning of the meeting unless they are considered under this section of the agenda and the Library Board determines that the matter requires emergency action.

Kelly asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. An addition was made at 2:49 pm on 10/13/24 and sent to all board members.

Board members reviewed the September 17, 2024 board meeting minutes. Kelley asked for a motion to approve as corrected. Walker moved to approve the minutes and Myers seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Schutte, Walker. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed.

The statistical and financial reports for September were reviewed. Kelley called for a motion to approve. Myers moved and Robinson seconded the motion. "Ayes": Kelly, Myers, Robinson, Schutte, Walker. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed.

Board members reviewed the September bills. Myers asked how many hours per month at no charge we have with Intralinks. We are allowed five hours and this month we had four and a half hours with no extra charge. Myers moved and Walker seconded to approve the bills. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Schutte, Walker "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed.

Director Clarke's Report

1. Thank you to Suzanne and Rick Myers and Kim Walker for helping with the Amberley Snyder event at the Civic Center on Oct. 23rd. Both speaking events were a huge success. The day event at the Civic Center saw 144 attendees and the evening event at

the Scotts Bluff County Fair Grounds saw 333 people in attendance. A full report with pictures has been submitted for your review by Sherry Preston. Preston did an outstanding job planning and facilitating these events. The support of all three library boards which includes but is not limited to providing many volunteers was greatly appreciated. Also, this could not have been possible without the support of the Gering Public Library Foundation. They allowed all monies to move through them to create a seamless process to provide these events.

2. The library will be acquiring new software for the public computers soon. It is called Deep Freeze and was recommended by Andrew Sherman, Technology Support Specialist for the Nebraska Library Commission. This software will replace the faulty Clean Slate and will wipe the public computers of all activity after each usage session. It will also contain a computer time management system which will replace the current Time Limit Manager. Staff is hopeful that this new software will eliminate many of the ongoing computer issues that have plagued our public computers for a while now. Intralinks has been working with a rep from the Deep Freeze company to ensure a seamless transfer and initiation of service.
3. GPL has a new staff member. Public Services Library Assistant I, Denise McVicker, started on September 30th and so far she has been a fantastic addition to our team. She has previous library experience from Colorado and will be a front desk worker as well as an assistant to Public Services Librarian, Sherry Preston. She will help with such Public Services duties as programming and writing articles for various newsletters among other things. We are thrilled to have her on board.
4. Director Clarke attended Bibliostat training in Alliance on October 7th in preparation for completing the annual Public Library Survey. Completion of this extensive survey is required in order to be eligible receive state aid. Clarke will begin working on the survey at the beginning of November.
5. Youth Services Library Asst. Hayley Grams has implemented ongoing Saturday Storytime to be held the first and third Saturdays of each month.
6. Flexible schedules have been implemented with Grams working Tuesday through Saturday and another staff member is working four ten-hour days.
7. Technical Services Librarian, Tammie Gitschel, has been very busy taking inventory of the collection and is almost finished. So far the stats look good with not much loss. More information will be forthcoming once inventory is complete. Plans are to do the inventory twice a year instead of the previous annual only inventory.
8. Youth Services Librarian Kira Perez and Asst. Hayley Grams will have a table on 10th street to participate in the annual Downtown Trick or Treat event. This year the street will be blocked to improve safety.

The Gering Library Foundation Board:

1. Skiles sent information from the last meeting.
 - a. Volunteers were requested for the Amberly Snyder events
 - b. The Christmas Tree Display for Legacy of the Plains event was discussed via email.
 - c. Projects going forward were discussed.

City Council Liaison:

1. No report

Unfinished Business: None**New Business**

1. The revised Gering Public Library Behavior Policy was reviewed. Schutte asked if adults in teen and children areas had been a previous concern and Clarke said staff had observed only a couple of instances. However, since it has been an issue in many other libraries in Nebraska as well as around the country, staff felt it was necessary to address and include in the Behavior Policy. Myers stated that the policy including supervision of any persons needing such was a good addition. Myers moved and Schutte seconded to approve the policy. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Schutte, Walker "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed.
2. Consideration was given to changing the Gering Public Library Board meeting time to 4:00 pm. After discussion Myers moved and Walker seconded to change the monthly meeting to the third Tuesday at 4:00 PM. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Schutte, Walker "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed.

Kelley asked for a motion to adjourn. Robinson moved and Schutte seconded the motion. "Ayes": Kelly, Myers, Robinson, Schutte, Walker. "Nays": none. Abstaining: None. Absent: none. The vote passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30

Suzanne Myers
Secretary