



Library Board May 2023 Meeting

May 2, 5:30 pm

VPL 2nd Floor Community Meeting Room

Call to order: SAA, MA, DB, CC, JC, MJ, SJ, MR

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve Minutes April 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Continuing Business
 - a. Renovation Plan update
 - b. Council Plan
5. New Business
6. Director's Report
 - a. Statistical Report
 - b. Financial Report
7. Adjourn

Director's Report

Renovation Update

The presentation to the City Council and tour on April 28 went well. The discussion at the tour culminated in "what are the next steps?" I would like to bring a few different phasing scenarios with specific costs to one of their Committee of the Whole meetings. I think there was consensus that some kind of City investment needs to be made sooner rather than later. I have begun to work on implementing the Bloomerang software. I am also working on a proposal to lay out what it might look like if we did joint fundraising for the library, the bandshell, Kreher Park Boat Launch and the Baron plaza (needs a new name).

Staff

Lisa was recognized at the City employee breakfast for 35 years of service. We gave her a gift certificate to Earth Sense so she can plant a tree or shrub or whatever! It is great to have such a depth of organizational experience/knowledge on our librarian team. Luckily, Lisa is still enthusiastic about library service and all the crazy things we do. Cole and Hannah are working with the school district to reach teens and promote summer reading among the elementary school kids. Hannah and Jennifer from Bad River have a Story Walk that will go up along the trail at the elementary school.

Programs/Events

Summer Reading information is ready for the public. We will kick off on June 10 on Vaughn Ave. All together is the theme this year. Some highlights will be a Tom Pease concert and a bike scavenger hunt. We are also planning three outdoor movies. I'm looking for a puppeteer to perform before the Muppet Movie, know any?

We were not selected by the 100 Who Care group. The Iron River Library was selected. I am guessing their more specific request for funding to create programming for special needs kids and a sustainable teaching garden were a better fit for this group, compared to our project which is huge and not quite as defined at this point. Was great to get a chance to talk about the library and a bit about the renovation before an audience of philanthropists.

Book Recommendation

"I Have Some Questions for You" by Rebecca Makkai is a little like Donna Tartt's "The Secret History" but it is more accessible and takes place in the present and in 1997. It is one of those novels where the main character develops as you read and your understanding of what she's learning about her past and the present begins to affect your own perspective as you interact in your life (outside the pages of the book). Which is a long way to say it is an engrossing novel and appealed to me!

Sarah Adams, Director