



## Library Board August 2023 Meeting

August 9, 5:00 pm

VPL 2nd Floor Literacy Room

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

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

## Director's Report

### Renovation Update

I am continuing to work with the City Council to develop a phase one funding plan. Two public discussions are a development of this work and will occur on Wednesday August 9 (directly following our board meeting) and Thursday August 10, 6 pm 2nd floor community meeting room at the VPL. Please plan to attend either the 9th or the 10th community meeting. Having board members present to speak to the process / need is very important. [Here's a link to the ADP article.](#)

### Staff

Oleana Jurewicz will start in September as our new page. Clara Gonderzik is off to UW Superior to begin her career as a college student. The evening clerk position is posted. Hopefully, we will have someone hired by the end of the month. Phil is off to hometown Cincinnati, last day August 29th. Sam has been training with both Phil and Lisa in preparation of picking up Phil's responsibilities. She is a great fit for the position and the training is making the transition pretty easy for all.

### Programs/Events

Program attendance is increasing compared to last year. Feels like we are almost fully recovered from the two year COVID disruption. Having two librarians focusing on programs and getting new people through the door is really beneficial to growing our user base. We registered 86 new library cards in the month of July! Looking forward to fall, we'll be working with the school district to get freshmen signed up for e-cards. We are also planning a banned books read-a-thon during the week of Oct 1 - 7 to celebrate our freedom to read. If you want to participate by taking a time-slot to read a banned book in the library, just let me know. I'll share all the promotional stuff as soon as it is done.

### On the Horizon

My hope is to have the funding formula for the renovation on the council agenda for a vote in Sept or Oct. Part of what I hear from the mayor and council is they would like to have more public education about the project before they make a decision on funding. There is a fear of "ramming this down the collective throat" before anyone has had a chance to know about it/weigh in, hence the upcoming meetings. I also think there's a vocal minority whose vision for the future is simply less taxes which means continued deferred responsibility for municipal assets.

The attendance and outcome of the public conversations will help frame what the next steps look like. It may be strategic to form a capital campaign committee whose role is raising awareness, then raising funds. I am still hesitant at spending any more of our donated funds on a professional fundraising consultant. At this point, let's hope the council exercises some leadership and stewardship.

*Sarah Adams, Director*