



Library Board January 2024 Meeting

January 10, 5:30 pm
Community Meeting Room

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

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve Minutes December 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Continuing Business
 - a. Request for Proposals - Capital Campaign
5. New Business
 - a. Information Campaign
 - b. Vote Campaign
6. Director's Report
 - a. Statistical Report
 - b. Financial Report
7. Adjourn

Director's Report

Renovation Update

As things have progressed in regard to the ballot question, I have put our capital campaign consultants on hold. I am assuming everyone is aware the petitioners gained enough signatures to request a ballot referendum for the \$4.3 in GO Bonds. The council will vote January 9 whether or not to go forward with a referendum or do another action. So, the consultants are aware that until post - April we will be working on an information campaign. EveryLibrary has assigned Ashley Stewart to work with our Info campaign. My work is putting together the campaign materials and recruiting members. The Vote Yes campaign is totally separate (legally City employees cannot on City paid time work to lobby one way or another), but I still need to find some leadership for that effort.

Grants

Pam Hayes (former grant writer for North Lakes) and I are working on the DOA grants for Local Projects which seems to be a grant perfect for our situation. Having the GO Bond up in the air makes things a little tricky, but the deadline is at the end of the month, so regardless of what happens in April, we need to ask for something.

Annual Report

I will be working on the annual report this month and submitting it to you at the February 14 meeting. It will be interesting to see how close we are to pre-COVID use. Just reading this morning that book sales for 2023 are 10% higher than 2019 - which we all consider norm form comparisons, but 2.3% lower compared to peak COVID years where everyone was reading! Expect to see high meeting room use and high children's programming numbers and a steady budget. Nothing too surprising as we review these each month. If there are any specific statistics you'd like to see called out, let me know.

Programs/Events

We are working on a few new programs for 2024. One is the Chequamegon Book, which will be like a One Book, One Community program launching this summer. The eclipse is coming up in April, so we will do some programming around that. BATB is turning into Winter Fest, with a Winter Market and outdoor family fun. The library will partner with Parks and Rec to do some activities for all ages. We will have an information table at the Market staffed by two librarians, but it would be great to have a board member at the table. Hands up?

On the Horizon

It is all about the April election right now :)

Book Recommendation

Winning Elections and Influencing Politicians for Library Funding by Patrick Sweeney and John Chrastka is on the top of my reading pile. Need I say more?

Sarah Adams, Director