

**DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**May 28, 2019**

**Call to Order:** President Rosendahl called the meeting of the Duluth Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Introductions were made.

**Members Present:** Matt Rosendahl, Sue Henke, Lizzy Luoma, David Sperl, Michelle Foshay, Stephen Welsh, Neil Glazman

**Also Present:** Carla Powers; Debbi Rasumssen, League of Women Voters; Denette Lynch, community member.

**Absent:** Betty Ramsland

**Review and approve agenda.** Agenda approved as drafted.

**Public comment period.**

- Debbi Rasmussen recommended board members see the movie “The Public” if it is still showing.
- Denette Lynch thanked the board for letting the community know what’s happening at the library by keeping detailed minutes. She asked some questions about a discussion that took place a couple of months ago regarding the potential relocation of the West Duluth Branch to the Spirit Valley Mall. Rosendahl explained that this was part of wide-ranging discussion and the board knows of no plans immediately in the works. Powers outlined the benefits of moving the branch to retail space, which include more parking, synergy with local businesses, and a meeting room for library programs. Filby Williams said that the conversation with a potential developer appears not to be as promising as first thought, but this area is a high priority site for the city to develop. If the branch library is relocated, the current space would be repurposed for other city uses.

**Minutes:** Motion by Welsh, seconded by Henke, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 board meeting as drafted with voice consent. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reports:**

Library Manager’s Report

- Powers gave an update on the new computer lab space. Feedback from patrons and staff has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Rosendahl asked whether the social workers using the Main Library space are setting up appointments. Powers replied that they are operating on a drop-in basis. Powers mentioned that this space has been renamed the Partnership Center in recognition of more organizations now using it.
- Rosendahl informed the board that Nick Foucault has resigned due to work commitments. There are a few applications on file with the city clerk’s office, but Rosendahl recommended hanging posters in libraries to publicize the open seat to as large a group as possible. The board is seeking greater geographic and/or ethnic diversity in its members.

Foundation Report – None this month.

Friends of the Library Report – None this month.

**Old Business:**

Election of secretary. Rosendahl laid out two options: schedule staff to work late and take minutes or have Powers take minutes with less detail. After some discussion Foshay volunteered to take minutes, and Sperl offered to be her backup when necessary. Motion by Welsh, seconded by Henke to accept this arrangement. Motion approved unanimously.

Update on proposal to eliminate overdue fines. The proposal approved by the board last month was presented by Powers and Byron Johnson, DPL's head of circulation, at a citywide ideas fair on April 30. It received positive feedback. Filby Williams said that the city's leadership team approved the proposal this morning. The team has asked library staff to report back on next steps including a proposed timeline, procedures, public communication, etc.

**New Business:**

Art policy. Powers outlined a new policy put together by the library's Diversity Action Group. This committee would like to begin soliciting art displays from local organizations that work with under-represented groups. At this time the library would not accept unsolicited proposals. After some discussion the board requested the policy be reworded to indicate this and brought back for consideration at the next meeting.

**Ongoing Business:**

Library advocacy. City council liaison Em Westerlund has requested a Committee of the Whole meeting to update the council on the library's strategic plan, its accomplishments, and the remaining needs related to the priority goals of early literacy and facilities. Foundation board president Dave Sproat, Ramsland and Rosendahl plan to meet and discuss their plans for a presentation. Filby Williams recommended making city administration aware of plans for the presentation. He will talk with CAO Noah Schuchman.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, June 25, 2019; 4:30 p.m.; West Duluth Branch Library