

**Duluth Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023**

Present: Bill Arezzo, Lori Steinbach, Michelle Foshay, Betty Ramsland

Also in attendance: Carla Powers, Jim Filby Williams, City Councilor Noah Hobbs

Absent: Susan Henke, Matt Rosendahl, Lizzy Luoma, Jose Gonzalez, Ellen Hatfield

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 PM by Michell Foshay. A quorum was not present and no action was taken at the meeting.

Reports

Library Manager

- Pride events went well with only a small group of protestors. Drag Storytime had a large turnout.
- DPL is partnering with the Superior Public Library on a program called Twin Ports Perceptions. It explores how local authors portray the community on the other side of the bridge from them.
- There are several library events scheduled in conjunction with the solar eclipse in October.
- Because the City of Duluth is observing Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 9, the library's staff development day that had been scheduled for this date will be postponed until spring 2024.
- Staffing update: An initial round of interviews is taking place for a Librarian I position. Interviews for a .5 Library Technician position will be held soon. Remaining .5 Library Technician position, which may be converted to a Library Safety Specialist, remains on hold.

Foundation

- Learning & Libations was a great event despite other competing events taking place on the same evening. A total of \$38,000 was raised.

Friends

- A three-hour retreat took place earlier this month. Ideas shared included increasing membership; defining the difference between the Foundation, the Friends and the Library board; accepting credit cards at the book sales, and the Friends tabling at various library locations to help educate the public on what they do.
- Retreat was an opportunity to discuss what Friends are currently doing and where the group wants to go in the future.

Old Business

Safety Update

- One of the Library Supervisors attended an online safety summit recently. His main takeaway was that the conference affirmed the work that DPL already is doing.
- If funding can be found elsewhere in the PPL department, security cameras will be added to the branch libraries. Currently neither branch has cameras.
- The budget presented by the Mayor and the maximum levy approved by City Council may provide up to \$110,000 for safety needs and library materials beginning in 2024. In addition, the City Council approved a one-time addition to the materials budget of \$200,000.

Main Library Facility Update

- The State Senate bonding committee visited the Main Library earlier this month as part of their state bonding tour.
- MSR is working on the predesign report, which is due in mid October.
- Community engagement garnered over 600 responses. The top four concerns were: lack of parking, hours, safety, and transportation to and from the Main Library.
- Members of the community would like to see non-traditional building access, more educational spaces for all ages, more inclusive spaces, homeschooling items, more seating, and more privacy for one-on-one meetings.
- An open house was held on Thursday, September 28.

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 PM