

PELLA PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 11, 2023

Mission Statement: Pella Public Library enriches our community by welcoming, creating, and nurturing curious minds and lifelong learners.

I. Call To Order: President Darath Fisher called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Board members present were: Suzy Card, Darath Fisher, Dayrel Gates, Brenda Huisman, Kristi Leonard, Matt Van Gelder, and newly-appointed board member, Chris Allen. Library Director Mara Strickler was present. There were no board members absent.

II. Recognition of Visitors and Visitor Comments: There were five visitors present.

- One visitor seeking response to his question about Senate File 496 which he had asked at the June meeting.
- One visitor spoke at length about the library board structure and accountability, and handed out copies of materials to board members.

III. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was distributed to all board members prior to the meeting. There were no changes to the agenda. Kristi moved to approve the agenda. Matt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Disposition of Minutes: All Board members received the June 13, 2023 minutes prior to the meeting. Suzy moved to approve the minutes as presented; Matt seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Approval of Bills: All Board members received the July list of bills prior to the meeting. After some discussion and questions regarding the monthly bills, Brenda moved to approve the July bills. Kristi seconded the motion. The bills were unanimously approved. At end of May, 92% of the fiscal year had elapsed, with 87% funds having been expended.

VI. Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business:

- Board ethics and conflict of interest statements: Board members were asked to review and sign both documents.
- FY 2022/2023 statistics: Changing technologies and current economic conditions. Continue to support electronic resources as these are growing and expected to continue to do so. The format of resources borrowed is changing. One result is decreased visits to the library, though in-person attendance at programs has increased. Computer and wi-fi use continue to grow.

VIII. President's Report and Announcements:

- Welcome to Chris Allen, new board member.
- Educational document completion is awaiting a few details and then will be printed for distribution.
- City council schedule: Suzy on July 18, Dayrel on August 1, Darath on August 15.

IX. Director's Report:

- A new patron request system is now available, replacing the online form system previously in use. Requests for materials are now made through the ILS system. This improves request management and efficiencies. Stages in a request's fulfillment are now visible to the requester via their account. In-progress requests were transferred into the system.
- At the June 2023 board meeting, a visitor asked about the library's compliance with Senate File 496, which was signed into law on May 26, 2023 and will become effective on January 2, 2024. Mara responded in this (July) meeting that the scope of this law does not include public libraries in the state of Iowa. The law applies to children and grade K-6 students, including school district library programs containing "age-appropriate materials". The visitor who asked the question in the June meeting was present in this (July) meeting and rose

to ask about “behavior in the library” policy. He also stated that there is a desire in the community to make library board member an elected position. The visitor left immediately after finishing his remarks.

- There was a library system outage which began on July 5, 2023, and lasted through July 6, 2023. Library staff worked with the library’s ILS provider to resolve the issue and restore system operation.

X. Trustee training reports

- Review: In Service to Iowa
- Section 5: Library Access – Virtual Spaces

XI. Committee reports: Committee assignment nominations were presented, as follows

- Personnel/Nominating committee: Chris Allen, Suzy Card, and Brenda Huisman
- Governance/Policy committee: Dayrel Gates, Kristi Leonard, and Matt Van Gelder

Matt moved to approve the committee assignments, Brenda seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

XII. Adjournment: President Darath Fisher adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.