

Berkley Public Library Board Meeting Minutes 16 February 2022

Present: Matt Church, Library Director; Rita Van Brandeghen, Chairperson; Carol Hermann, Amanda Rhoda, Jordan Paterra, and Mary Jo Armstrong, Board Members; Natalie Price, City Council liaison.

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Minutes from 19 January 2022 meeting were approved as printed.

Librarian's Report:

The Library Director presented his reports for January on programs, equipment updates, and staff. Highlights of the reports include:

- The Berkley Library participated in the Woodward Dream Drive to benefit Oakland County Children's Village.
- The library launched its Storytime in a Bag take home kits in January. The library will return to in person story times in April.
- A fire inspection was conducted at the library by public safety. After minor corrections, the library received a passing report.
- The Friends will meet 28 February 2022 at 7 p.m.
- Friends' treasurer, Cath Matthews-Pennanen, passed away on 27 January 2022.
- Fines and fees were down significantly in 2021 due to COVID-related usage, auto renewals, and waiver of fines and fees for a significant part of 2021. Review of future TLN reporting will help assess whether waivers of fines and fees on overdue materials should be reinstated.
- Matt attended department head meetings, local library director meetings (virtual), and participated in the Main Street America DDA evaluation (virtual).
- The staff participated in the City's all-staff in-service on 28 January 2022. By dividing the staff between the two sessions, the library was able to stay open to patrons.
- Patrons of all ages had several programs to choose from in January. The programs were well-attended.
- The annual state aid report was submitted to the Library of Michigan.
- Work is underway on the FY 2022-23 budget.
- The library is in need of a new HVAC system in the coming FY. Accordingly, plans for other possible updates, including private study rooms and carpet are on hold for the coming year.

Old Business:

- January circulation was up. More patrons seem to be coming into the library. Auto-renewals have helped both to increase circulation and to reduce late fines and fees.
- Nothing new to report regarding COVID.
- The board began to review and discuss the Library Board's establishing ordinance in order to make suggestions for updates to the city attorney and council. Review and discussion will continue at the March meeting.

New Business: there was no new business.

Update from City Council Liaison:

- Council Liaison, Natalie Price, indicated that State Rep. Regina Weiss is seeking to determine if the new HVAC system needed for the library may be funded through the state budget or American Rescue Act rather than have it come from the city budget. Updates will be provided.
- Natalie indicated that the library is being considered as a possible location for a future EV station as the city looks to bring this technology to Berkley.

A motion to adjourn was made by Amanda Rhoda, seconded by Carol Hermann, and approved by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting – 7 p.m., Wednesday, 16 March 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Hermann