



## West Fargo Public Library Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023

5:30 p.m.

City Hall Commission Chambers

**Board Member Present:** Mandy George, Liann Hanson, Larry Schwartz, Tony Stukel

**Also Present:** Library Director Betty Adams, Communications Specialist Ellen Rossow

### I. **Call to Order**

Hanson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

### II. **Approval of Order of the Agenda**

Schwartz moved and Hanson seconded to approve the order of the agenda with the addition of discussion of proposed legislative bills HB1205 and SB2123. No opposition. Motion carried.

### III. **Consent Agenda**

George moved to approve the consent agenda. Schwartz seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

### IV. **Regular Agenda**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

#### 1. **2022 Communications Report**

Communications Specialist Ellen Rossow presented communications highlights from 2022 including a 22% increase in news coverage from 2021 and a 125% increase in organic reach on social media. Rossow also shared the library's new quarterly magazine-style publication.

#### 2. **Meeting Room Policy (Action)**

Director Betty Adams requested approval of the updated Meeting Room Policy. Changes included the addition of a small group meeting room and increased flexibility of rules. Hanson moved to approve the new Meeting Room Policy. Schwartz seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

#### 3. **Adult Services Personnel Adjustment (Action)**

Adams requested approval of the addition of a degreed Adult Services Librarian and the combination of two part-time program assistants to one full-time program assistant position. Schwartz moved to approve the adjustments to the Adult Services team. Hanson seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

#### 4. **Director's Report**

Adams reported on library news from December 2022 and early January, including:

- A recent program was so well-attended that additional rooms had to be opened to accommodate overflow
- Patron comments were overwhelmingly positive following the library's receipt of the 2022 Star Library Award
- The library was closed due to weather a few times in December. Third Street is not a snow removal priority when schools are closed for winter break, which made entering and exiting the library parking lot difficult at times.

- The vacant Technical Services Manager position was to be posted in early January
- 2022 physical item circulation exceeded pre-COVID 2019 numbers
- The library ended 2022 under budget

Adams also shared upcoming events and program adjustments for the new year, including the continuation of community “meet and greet” events to gather public input about library services.

During this time, Schwartz asked about IT service response times after significant turnover in the City’s IT department, stating if problems arise that the board is willing to back the library so needs can be met.

Commissioner George shared feedback from a representative of the West Fargo Pioneer who hopes the library could once again house past issues of the West Fargo Pioneer. George also made the board aware of the ongoing Building Exploratory Committee meetings discussing options for a new City Hall and Police Department building. Discussions have grown to include discussion of the Library too. She shared that one primary location being looked at for a new City Hall and Police Department is the Lodoen Center lot, which would be demolished and a new building constructed, leaving the library in need of a new home.

#### **5. Proposed legislative bills HB1205 and SB2123**

Hanson made the board aware that she will be publicly opposing two bills introduced by the state legislature relating to public libraries offering “sexually explicit materials” and the display of “objectionable materials,” stating that these bills promote censorship.

After discussion of these bills, library procedure for book challenges, and an upcoming update consortium-wide that would allow parents to choose to have direct control over the books checked out by their minor children, Schwartz moved to publicly express the board’s opposition to HB1205 and SB2123. Hanson seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

#### **V. Adjourn**

Hanson motioned to adjourn. Schwartz seconded. No opposition. Motion carried at 6:01 p.m.