



West Fargo Public Library Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 30, 2023

5:30 p.m.

City Hall Commission Chambers

Board Member Present: Liann Hanson, Alanna Rerick, Larry Schwartz, Tony Stukel

Also Present: Library Director Betty Adams, Communications Specialist Ellen Rossow, Technical Services Manager Bree Schmidt

Absent: Commissioner Mandy George

I. Call to Order

Hanson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Order of the Agenda

Hanson moved and Schwartz seconded to approve the order of the agenda, with the addition of discussion of proposed legislative bills HB1205 and SB2360. No opposition. Motion carried.

III. Consent Agenda

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

IV. Regular Agenda

Old Business

New Business

1. Circulation Policy (Action)

Adams requested approval of an updated Circulation Policy, which combined the former Circulation Policy with additional previously approved loan fines and related charges documentation. Hanson motioned to approve the Circulation Policy. Stukel seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

2. Interlibrary Loan Policy (Action)

Adams requested approval of the updated Interlibrary Loan Policy. Changes included the clarification of terminology around Interlibrary Loans versus ODIN Consortium loans. The library hopes to expand its availability of ILLs beyond North Dakota. Schwartz asked if eBooks are included in ILLs. Adams explained that it depends on the contracts with digital repositories. Schwartz also asked about postage costs. Adams explained that library staff are monitoring postage costs to plan for the future. Hanson motioned to approve the Interlibrary Loan Policy. Schwartz seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

3. Equipment Loan Policy (Action)

Adams requested approval of the updated Equipment Loan Policy. Changes included all equipment having the same loan period of three weeks. Under this revised policy, patrons would only need to sign the Equipment Loan Agreement once and youth would be able to check out equipment with parent approval and signature. Ozobots were also added to the policy. Hanson motioned to approve the Equipment Loan Policy. Rerick seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

4. Director's Report

Adams introduced newly hired Technical Services Manager Bree Schmidt.

Adams reported on library news from February 2023, including:

- The success of the new Music at the Library series
- A volunteer's enjoyment in working at the library in a welcoming environment
- Limitations of our restroom access
- Parking lot issues with regard to snow buildup and the number of entities using the same lot
- The library had multiple early closures in February due to weather
- The library received a grant from the state totaling \$3000 for LaunchPads to allow some to be circulated on the Little Red Reading Bus
- Meeting room usage was up in February
- Staff continue to participate in continuing education
- All monthly stats are up and above pre-pandemic numbers
- At the end of February only 13% of the budget was used
- 362 students participated in the middle school Beanstack challenges
- The library is reevaluating how to reach teens
- Book Clubs continue to be successful

5. Updates on legislative bills HB1205 and SB2360

Adams met with staff March 30 to discuss the implications of the passing of HB1205 and SB2360. At the time of the meeting, HB1205 had passed. The potential closure of the library is on the horizon given the terminology "access to minors." Additional implications of this bill's passing include:

- access to digital collections would need to be shut down
- all adult and teen collections would need to be physically blocked off, meaning the library is no longer a truly public space
- minors would be unable to check out materials, or significant monitoring would be needed
- parents would need to leave their child unattended if they wanted to browse the adult section
- Interlibrary Loan would need to stop
- All the collection movement that took place in January would need to be re-evaluated
- State funding may be revoked if limitations are put in place
- Parents no longer have control over the minors in their care
- Children may no longer be able to search the catalog
- Free Book Fridays and Friends of the Library Book Sales would have to be 18+

Staff did come up with some potential solutions for navigating the situation including:

- Partnership with Moorhead for library services
- Specific age groups having access at certain times (could result in loss of funding)
- Staff-only access to the stacks, which would mean no browsing

A law firm has offered to represent North Dakota communities, libraries, and staff in taking legal action if these bills do pass. Hanson asked if this representation would conflict with the City of West Fargo's legal counsel. Adams said she would look into it, but her understanding was there is not a conflict. Rerick moved that the board engage the law firm in legal counsel regarding HB1205 and SB2360 on behalf of library staff and the Board of Directors. Hanson seconded. No opposition. Motion carried.

Hanson made a public statement addressed to Governor Burgum: "We adamantly oppose

both of these bills and urge him to veto them. We very much have policies in place that deal with circulation and checkouts and I think each library in the state of North Dakota has the right to manage its library and its patrons. I publicly urge Governor Burgum to veto both bills.”

V. Adjourn

Schwartz moved to adjourn. Rerick seconded. No opposition. Motion carried at 6:04 p.m.