

DRAFT MINUTES

ROLL CALL: Diane Leja (arrived 12.13), Gabrielle Strouse, Katy Beem, Eric Young

ABSENT: Greg Redlin, Kelsey Collier-Wise

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Burniston

On a motion by Young, seconded by Beem, the minutes of the July 18, 2019 meeting were approved with one correction to remove the word "Manger's" in the third sentence of the old business section. All present voted aye.

On a motion by Young, seconded by Beem, the agenda was approved. All present voted aye.

There were no visitors present to be heard.

On a motion by Young, seconded by Strouse, the reports of the Director were accepted. All present voted aye.

On a motion by Young, seconded by Strouse, the July & August expenditures were approved. All present voted aye.

REPORTS:

Foundation – The commercial coffee maker that was included on the 2019 Library Foundation approved purchases has been ordered and received this week. Once installed in the staff breakroom, it will be able to brew into airports that can be used in programs, meeting rooms and around the library as needed. This will replace the older, less flexible Bunn decanter brewer located by the Water Fountains.

Friends –The Friends will be holding the monthly used book sales for fall on the second Friday and Saturday of the month. The change was to avoid conflicts with holidays, Ribs & Rods, and Dakota Days. The Friends had a great first sale of the fall on September 13 & 14 raising \$778.50.

During this September National Library Card Sign up month the Friends are coordinating the presentation "Off the Beaten Path: Small Towns in South Dakota" with Mike McDonald on September 26th. The presentation includes lunch. There are 60 tickets available at \$10, about two thirds of the tickets have sold already. The Friends are also working on another November Presentation by Carol Patrick who has presented in Vermillion in the past. The Friends are sponsoring the purchase of alcohol for the November 14th Adult Wine & Paint program.

Summer Reading Program 2019 – The Library Director reported that our Summer Reading Program registrations were down to 199, compared to 273 last year. However, overall program attendance at the library was slightly higher than last year. The is likely attributed to not all participations who attended the programs registering for the reading log portion of the program. Story Time attendance was up from last year while BSA, Outreach and our Tuesday movies numbers were down a little. Teen Brunch attendance numbers were almost identical to last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Library Director Reported that the Library's FY2019 revised and FY2020 proposed budget was presented to the City Council during their budget work sessions on the evening of August 14th. The final proposal included the adjustments proposed by the City Manager in July and discussed at the July Library board meeting. The Library Director answered Council Members' questions about the library and our budget request. The request to upgrade the Program Aide position to a full-time Youth Services position moved on to the final step in the budgeting process.

The first reading of the budget Ordinances took place at the City Council meeting on September 3rd and the second reading was completed at the September 16th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Updated Technology Plan – The Library Director reported that South Dakota State Library Accreditation Standards require that the: “Library has a technology plan in place that is adopted by the Library Board and reevaluated every three years”(SDSL Accreditation Enhanced item #54).

The Library’s current three-year accreditation period ends in 2019, the current Technology Plan was approved on December 17, 2013 to cover 2014-2019. In order to renew at the same level, the library will need to review and meet all the requirements.

An updated version was created for review. The new version is designed to be reviewed and updated annually. Given the rate of change in technology, and the need/practicality to update the inventory of equipment regularly an annual review appears practical at this time.

The Library Board discussed the proposed updated Technology Plan and the Library Director answered Library Board members’ questions. On a motion by Strouse, seconded by Beem, the updated Technology Plan was approved. All present voted aye.

Values language update – The Library Director reported that the Vermillion Public Library includes in its mission statement and strategic plan language stating that: “We serve all people in the Vermillion area: individuals and groups of every age, economic level, occupation, ethnic origin, philosophy, and human condition.”

This language reflects the professional values of libraries and librarians as identified by the American Library Association’s “*Library Bill of Rights*” and the accompanying interpretation “*Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sexual Orientation: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights.*” This interpretation summarizes that “Librarians have a professional obligation to ensure that all library users have free and equal access to the entire range of library services, materials, and programs.”

Similar language is also included in other policies such as our Collection Development Plan and Patron Code of Conduct. When our Collection Development policy was recently updated the language was updated to state that:

“The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library aims to provide service to all community members regardless of age, ancestry, color, economic level, education, gender identity and expression, human condition, national origin, occupation, philosophy, political affiliation, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation, or any other protected classes in state or federal law.”

In July 2019, the Library Director met with Travis Letellier who is Chair of Equality South Dakota and a Commissioner on Vermillion Human Relations Commission. Travis is working with the City of Vermillion, and others, regarding their Municipal Equality Index (MEI).

“The Municipal Equality Index (MEI) examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ people who live and work there. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement and the city leadership’s public position on equality.”

<https://www.hrc.org/mei>

Municipalities are given a score by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) based on their research. Before the scores are nationally published, municipalities are given the opportunity to provide additional information to improve their score. With the assistance of Travis, the City has greatly improved its score in recent years.

While talking to Travis, it was identified that the language used in our values statement was not as specific or current as it could be. Updated language could align better with current Federal Equal Opportunity language, recognized protected classes and could potentially help raise the City MEI index. This language is designed to be a good way to specifically protect at-risk populations against discrimination and bullying. Also, because neither the Federal government nor South Dakota recognizes sexual orientation or gender identity as protected classes, the current best practice is to explicitly list both "sexual orientation" and "gender identity and expression" in policies. On a motion by Young, seconded by Beem, it was approved to use the updated values language in policies and plans. All present voted aye.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17th, 2019 at 12:00pm. Gabrielle Strouse noted that she will be out of town for the next meeting. Eric Young noted he also will be out of town. The Library Director will confirm the meeting date with the absent board members to ensure we have a quorum for the October meeting, or if there is a need to reschedule.

On a motion by Beem, seconded by Strouse, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Burniston
Library Director