

Minutes
New Berlin Public Library Board Meeting
October 21, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
New Berlin Public Library
Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order by President Marek at 6:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Members Present: Ruth Bock, Chuck Garrigues, Nate Jung, Jill Kawala, Charlotte Kroupa, John Marek, Barb Uhen and Patti Orzel

Members Absent: Dolores Greenawalt

Staff Members Present: Natalie Beacom, Director

Others Present: Kathy Wiemelt, President, Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library:

Kathy Wiemelt reported that the book sale sponsored by the Friends on September 20th 21st and 22nd raised over \$10,000. It was the Friends' most successful sale in their history. The board members joined Ms. Wiemelt in thanking the dedicated team of volunteers who make the book sales possible. A mini sale will be held from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, October 26. All proceeds will benefit the Friends of the New Berlin Public Library Scholarship Fund.

Consent Agenda Items:

The following items were presented on the consent agenda for approval:

- A. Minutes from Monday, September 16, 2024
- B. Next meeting date: Monday, November 18, 2024
- C. Bills and Invoices through October 2, 2024
- D. Library Activity Reports

Trustee Kawala made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. It was seconded by Trustee Jung. The motion passed 8-0.

Administrative Reports:

President's Report: None

Director's Report: Director Beacom's written report is included with the agenda packet. It is available on line at the City of New Berlin's website.

Director Beacom announced that the library set another attendance record for September, the fourth month in a row. From the end of summer and beginning of the school year, the library served over 35,000 visitors, which is a 25%

increase from 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. *2025 Library Operating Budget – Revisions:* Costs associated with building maintenance will be transferred from the library's budget to the Department of Public Works. This change is consistent with other city departments. Funds for dues and conferences were reduced as the staff has transitioned to using primarily web-based professional development opportunities. Concerns about the impact of the proposed We Energies rate increases were also discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Strategic Planning – Library, Communications, Network:* Director Beacom invited the trustees to join two new strategic planning teams focusing on critical issues including energy use and artificial intelligence.
- B. *Trustee Essentials: Planning for the Library's Future, Chapter 11:* It was noted that Director Beacom's initiative to form the new teams was a good example of the using the strategic planning process to prepare for the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Kroupa made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Trustee Garrigues. The motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Orzel, Secretary