

Augusta Memorial Public Library Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 19, 2021 5:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 5:38 pm by Lori Wells

Quorum Present

Open Meeting Law Compliant

Agenda Approved : Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Bunny

Minutes from March 15, 2021 Approved: Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Barb

Present: Rebecca White Body, Barb Johnson, Lori Wells, Bunny Turner, Polina Kudelina, Brenda Pettis

Also present: Leslie LaRose

Absent: Del Thorson

Financial Report:

1. The library has monthly water payments now, but this was planned for, so the budget is where it should be at this point in the year.
2. Motion to approve by Bunny, seconded by Brenda, all approved.

Director's Report:

1. This is Lori's last meeting because her term is ending; the library thanks her for her service.
2. Teen and adult summer programming will (barring unforeseen circumstances) take place in the Reading Garden and/or the Lions' Hall.
3. The Day Packs (themed bags) are now available for checkout, and some come with day passes to parks and other locations relevant to the themes; the Friends of the Library are covering the cost.
4. Ten puzzles are available for checkout, and more will be added when library cataloguers get caught up with a backlog of unusual items due to the pandemic.
5. The library will partner with Feed My People so community members can pick up free meal bags there.

Friends of the Library report

1. No report available at this time.

COVID update

1. Appointments are still encouraged, but there's flexibility when people show up unexpectedly and there's capacity available in the building.
2. Currently, 10 people (including staff) can be in the building at a time. Staff have only had to turn away people once, when a family of four without an appointment arrived when a family of four with an appointment was already in the building. Most patrons are understanding, and there have only been two recent complaints (both from non-locals).
3. Live programs will take place outdoors or in a larger space.
4. Local COVID rates have been fairly unchanged.
5. Book quarantines have been reduced to 24 hours because growing evidence suggests that the virus isn't spread easily by surface contact.

Policy review

Circulation Policy:

1. The Board reviewed the Circulation Policy. Sections about editing and updating patron records, as well as about retention of inactive records, were taken verbatim from MORE and added to the policy.
2. Checkout limits have been raised to 200 items and 100 holds.
3. Pickup services will be retained and added to the policy since many patrons like them.
4. A damaged material clarification from MORE, a section about appealing library charges, and a policy regarding checking out items from non-home libraries were also added based on MORE's wording.
5. The sections regarding cards issued to organizations like churches or schools and outreach services to homebound patrons remain unchanged.
6. Motion to approve the policy by Polina, seconded by Barb, all approved.

Programming Policy:

1. Clarifications were made from the previous policy to specify who is responsible for which aspects of programming.
2. Language was also added regarding the library's mission to provide programming in a neutral, inclusive manner.
3. The policy covers both on and off site programs.
4. Visiting authors can sell their books, but that doesn't imply library endorsement of their ideas.
5. Children under 8 will be required to have adult supervision during programming.
6. Motion to approve the policy by Lori, seconded by Barb, all approved.

Eau Claire County Wide Service Agreement

1. The current agreement was signed in 1987 and determines reimbursement rates for items checked out of non-home libraries in Eau Claire County. Eau Claire is the only library that profits from this system; the rest lose money.
2. Fall Creek submitted its request to withdraw last month, and Leslie recommends that Augusta do the same since there will be no negative consequences for doing so. Other libraries can't prevent Augusta's patrons from using their services even if Augusta withdraws.
3. Withdrawing will facilitate inter-library programming because the smaller libraries won't have to worry about their patrons attending programs at other libraries and checking out materials.
4. If all Eau Claire County libraries withdraw at the same time, the agreement ends immediately; otherwise, Augusta has to make payments for two years because of the termination clause in the agreement.
5. The Board needs to recommend to the City of Augusta that it step out of the service agreement since the request to withdraw has to come from the City.
6. Brenda approved the recommendation to withdraw, seconded by Bunny, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Minutes taken and typed by Rebecca White Body

