

## **Bemidji Public Library Board Meeting Minutes September 8, 2020**

Present: Deb Rossman, Joyce Siegert, Lauree Bahr, Deb Graves, Sheri Brumback  
Absent: Heidi Johnson, Kath Molitor, Steve Pflieger, Nancy Erickson  
Guests: Sara McKinney

The board meeting was held via ZOOM. Chair, Deb Rossman, called the meeting to order.

**I. Approval of August minutes:** Motion to accept by Lauree Bahr, Seconded by Joyce Siegert.

### **II. Manager's Report**

**A. Financial report:** Not many funds have been spent. Masks were purchased to give to the public when needed. They are \$50-60 for 100 masks.

**B. Usage Statistics:** Checkouts are lower than normal. Three storytimes were given on Facebook Live. Patrons could watch it live or view later. There were 2,288 checkouts in August, with 984 customers visiting the library during the 137 hours it was open. Computers were used 236 times.

**C. News:** Phase 5 is now in progress with no appointments necessary. Patrons may browse the library but there is no seating except for at the computers. They have access to all public rooms except the meeting room. The meeting room is being used for quarantined books and furniture that cannot be used at this time. Books are returned at the outdoor book return, then placed in quarantine for 72 hours. No date has been set for in-person programming. Services will be added as allowed by the state. Patrons have been appreciative of the services provided but do want seating to be available. There is very little pushback about restrictions and masks.

Hours have reverted to the original pre-Covid hours (M-Th 9:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m., F & S 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) It is really slow but increases each day. This gives everyone a more comfortable experience. Curbside service continues and amounts to 10% of circulation or less. All staff members are back to regular hours. Brainerd is still doing only curbside delivery by appointment. Park Rapids and Longville are starting to open with basic steps.

The new mural was profiled on Lakeland Public Television on September 4 with the artist. It can be viewed on the Lakeland website. A formal "unveiling" will be planned for a later date when it can be coordinated with the artist.

Staffing needs include two more substitutes.

### **III. Old Business:**

**IV. New Business:** Sheri requested that the library board purchase 100 lanyards at a cost of \$168.20 to identify staff members and volunteers when they are out on the floor. They will be personalized with the KRLS logo and the Bemidji Public Library name. Extras may be used as prizes. Joyce made a motion to purchase the lanyards,

seconded by Lauree. Unanimous vote in approval. Sheri also requested that the board purchase spring lifts for the two plastic bins that were ordered. The cost, which includes shipping, would be \$195.96. Lauree made a motion to purchase the spring lifts, seconded by Deb Graves. Unanimous vote in approval.

A question was asked about the involvement of the library with the voter registration planned for September 15 in the parking lot. The library is only providing space for a tent in the parking lot. No staff will be involved.

**V. Kitchigami Regional Library Service Report:** none

**VI. Friends of the Bemidji Public Library report:** Sara McKinney reported that 240 “Books for Babies” packets had been compiled by her and Kim Williams. These were delivered to Sanford Hospital and will be enough for three to four months. The packet includes a paperback book, information on the importance of reading, library information and a coupon for a free book at the Red Door bookstore. The board will meet on September 9. The group will prepare a showcase for October to promote National Friends Week. In November, they will have the donations tree in the library. Patrons who participated in the winter reading program may pick up their prizes at the library desk.

**VII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Deb Graves, second by Joyce Siegert

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 2020.