

## **Bemidji Public Library Board Meeting Minutes February 9, 2021**

**Present:** Deb Rossman, Joyce Siegert, Lauree Bahr, Steve Pflieger, Sheri Brumback

**Absent:** Kath Molitor, Heidi Johnson

**City Council:** Nancy Erickson

**Guests:** Sara McKinney

The January board meeting was held via ZOOM. Vice-chair, Deb Rossman, called the meeting to order.

**I. Approval of December minutes as corrected:** Motion to accept by Lauree Bahr, seconded by Stephen Pflieger.

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

**A. Financial report:** Sheri said she would have a report from the city at the March meeting when the city has finished their year-end reports. There have been few expenses since library use is limited.

**B. Usage Statistics:** In January, there were 6,661 customer visits. Many may have been repeats. A total of 8,374 materials were checked out. This does not include the use of audio, e-book, or other electronic materials. Facebook Live story times are on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They are recorded so they can be watched again at any time. There were 598 users of the Internet services.

**C. News:** Winter gear is being provided at the library entrance for those who need warm clothing and boots. Donations have been generous with some people giving money instead of clothing. The money was used to buy mittens and hats. Mittens and gloves are put out several times a day. The idea has been shared on Facebook 150 times.

The library had been quarantining materials for 72 hours but that has been reduced to 24 hours, based on recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Education.

As for incidents in the library, one man overdosed in the library. He had consumed drugs before coming in. Emergency responders came immediately and administered Narcan. He refused to go to the hospital.

There is still a little push-back on wearing masks. If someone is unable to wear a mask, curbside service pickup is offered.

The Snowtime to Read program is in full swing. KRLS is now providing the beanstack.com program throughout the whole region as a way of keeping track of readers and their progress.

On March 11, 2021, there will be a Legacy program featuring author William Kent Krueger at 6:00 p.m. He will speak for 45 minutes on his new book, [This Tender Land](#) with another 15 minutes for questions and answers. Register on the Facebook Legacy page ahead of time by calling your local library doing a search on Facebook for Bemidji Public Library, then the information of the William Kent Krueger presentation. There is a link to click on.

The library will be closed on February 15 for Presidents' Day.

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

**A. Computers for the library:** Kitchigami is getting a new ILS library system, Symphony by Circe Dynex, to replace the out-of-date current system for cataloging, circulation, and other administrative tasks of the libraries. It is app-driven and patron-

based or staff-based. Anticipated beginning of use is September, 2021. Currently, the migration of materials data and patron data is taking place, along with “clean up.” Our library may get tablets in order to use apps at the front desk or around the library. Staff would be able to carry them around to do their work.

With the new system, membership for a whole family could be set up using a parent driver’s license. There would be some kind of security.

#### **IV. New Business:**

**A. Vacant board position:** The City of Bemidji has posted the position.

**B. Hoopla:** Sherry explained the use of Hoopla for downloadable media like movies, comic books, TV shows, exercise videos, audio books, etc. Three downloads per month per person are allowed. Once you subscribe, you have access to everything they offer. It is free with your library card. Hoopladigital.com. Set up an account, enter library card. An audio reader is included. There is a link on the Bemidji Public Library website as well as their Facebook page.

**V. Kitchigami Regional Library Service Report:** Nancy Erickson reported that there were no KRLS board meetings in November and December. At the January meeting, all budgets received were approved by the KRLS board. Normally, there is no February meeting but the policy committee will meet. Nancy is on that committee. She was also voted to be the treasurer of the KRLS board.

Legacy money, available to libraries through State of Minnesota taxation is awarded to the Bemidji Public Library in a larger amount than any of the other KRLS libraries because they have the staff to handle more events.

**VI. Friends of the Bemidji Public Library report:** The Friends are currently sponsoring the winter reading program, SnowTime to Read. In previous years, they have donated \$1,000 but this year it is \$1,200. Readers will receive a commemorative mug when they have read and recorded at least 10 books during the time period of January 1-February 28, 2021. The mugs and pens are provided by the Friends.

Membership in the Friends is currently at 162, down about 50 people. This may be due, in part, to the lack of a summer book sale where people often signed up to be a member so that they could attend the opening Friends shopping night. Membership forms are available at the library.

Literacy grants will be awarded. There will be more this year because a local donor gave a significant amount of money to the project. The Friends may expand their grants beyond the community.

The Red Door Book Store is not ready to open yet because of Covid-19 and the lack of volunteers.

**VII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Steve Pfleger, second by Joyce Siegert.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Siegert, Secretary