

**Bemidji Public Library Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 2021**

**Present:** Joyce Siegert, Lauree Bahr, Steve Pflieger, Heidi Johnson, Kath Molitor

**Absent:** Deb Rossman

**City Council:** Nancy Erickson

**Guests:** Sara McKinney

The April board meeting was held via ZOOM. Chair, Heidi Johnson, called the meeting to order.

**I. Approval of March minutes:** Motion to accept with corrections if necessary, by Lauree Bahr, seconded by Steve Pflieger. Changes to the agenda were put forward by Steve Pflieger, seconded by Lauree Bahr.

**II. Manager's Report**

**A. Financial report:** None available

**B. Usage Statistics:** Sheri Brumback, gave the following usage statistics for the five weeks of March, 2021:

254 hours open to public

8,481 patrons

8,711 items checked out

699 Internet users

11 Virtual programs with 681 attendees

**C. News:**

**1. General report:**

a. The library is now providing seven WiFi hotspots for checkout by Bemidji residents. They must come in person to the library to check them out. They were purchased by KRLS with Covid-19 funds and KRLS will pay monthly costs. Patrons must be at least 18 years old and may have them for up to four weeks. If not returned, service will be turned off. There is a \$10 overdue fee, a \$100 replacement fee, and a \$35 cord replacement fee when those problems are encountered.

b. Legal Kiosk. It has been very well received and is used often with usage increasing.

c. Quarantine. All returned materials are being quarantined for 24 hours. There are eight bins in the meeting room for this procedure. The meeting room cannot be used for "in-person" meetings at this time because it is being used for quarantining materials. The library is receiving many calls for the use of the meeting room.

**2. Programs:**

a. [www.bemidjispeaks.com](http://www.bemidjispeaks.com) This is a website with a theme of women's history in the Bemidji area. Patrons are able to access local stories, history, and knowledge. The first exhibit is "Bemidji Women Raise Their Voices." Amy Karwoski, library staffer, has been working on this project. She interviews local women, films a presentation and does the editing. It is a cross-section of society.

b. **Legacy programming:** Lalo's Lunchbox – kindness for small children. Thursday, May 13 at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live. It is an interactive livestream for children.

c. **BARC** (Bemidji Area Reading Canines) continues as trained dogs come to the library to listen to readers.

d. **Request:** Amy Karwoski is requesting funds from the board for art prints to mount on the walls and shelves in the adult fiction area and submitted a proposal with pictures for consideration.

**III. Old Business:**

**A. Annual budget** – Questions were asked about who makes up the library budget and does the library board need to approve it. Duties of the board, as per city code, will be reviewed.

**IV. New Business:**

**A. Kitchigami Regional Library System funds for the Bemidji Public Library:** Nancy Erickson explained that during the last audit of the KRLS, the auditor said that their organization cannot have such a large sum of undesignated money on hand. Millions of dollars must be considered so that the intent of the donations is clear and the money is used appropriately and proportionately. Each library manager in the KRLS was asked to prepare a list of needs. What did Bemidji request? Tools for maintenance person, tablets

for staff, outreach services (tables, displays to take to events), and pod cast equipment were some listed. How the money will be disbursed and spent is still unknown.

**B. Vacant board position:** The City of Bemidji has posted the position and there are two applicants so far. One does not qualify because the applicant must reside in city limits. Applications may be accepted until the May 3, 2021 city council meeting. The mayor will decide who to add to the board and ask for council approval in the consent agenda.

**C. Request for funds.** Information was presented on materials being requested, costs, and use. Questions were asked about copyright information. A motion to table this purchase was offered by Lauree Bahr, seconded by Steve Pflieger since we do not have a financial report of funds available from the board.

**V. Kitchigami Regional Library Service Report:** Nancy Erickson's report was about the KRLS undesignated funds mentioned under New Business. There will be no April board meeting for KRLS.

**VI. Friends of the Bemidji Public Library report:** Sara McKinney reported that April is the month for the Friends' annual meeting. Usually, just their board members attend. The Friends received a \$2,000 donation for more literacy grants. The new name of the project is "Friends Support Reading." Groups invited to submit a grant request include: the Red Lake Nation Boys and Girls' Club in Red Lake, Red Lake and Ponemah Head Starts, the Leech lake Early Childhood Head Start (Bemidji site), Kelliher ECFE/School Readiness, and ECFE/School Readiness in Blackduck.

Membership in the Friends is at 166 which is down because some have not renewed for this year. Nancy Erickson will share the annual report of the Friends with the city council and encourage them to join the Friends of the Bemidji Public Library.

**VII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Steve Pflieger, second by Lauree Bahr.

Next meeting will be May 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Siegert, Secretary