

Altoona Public Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Room – 700 8th Street SW

Minutes:

1. Call to order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by President Rork-Wilson at 7:01 PM
 - b. Board Members Present: Matt Kray, Mark Vance, Mindy Goldsberry, Mary Rork-Watson, Mike Hamilton, Alan Miller
 - c. Library Staff Present: Kim Kietzman, Amy Turgasen, Emily Linacre
 - d. City Council Member present: Scott Duer
2. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. The agenda was approved with a motion by Kray, second by Miller and passed unanimously.
3. Approve Minutes (August 2023)
 - a. The minutes of the August meeting were approved without changes. The motion was made by Hamilton, a second by Kray, and passed unanimously.
4. Approve Bills (August 2023)
 - a. The July bills were approved with a motion by Goldsberry, a second by Hamilton, and approved unanimously.
5. Public Comment
 - a. None
6. Staff Reports:

Director's Report – Kim reported that for the first time since we started offering an adult summer reading challenge, we didn't program into August for it, instead ending all three age-level challenges by July 31st. It did not seem to have put a dent in the statistics, except perhaps door traffic.

In August there were three staff resignations. Two were part time clerks, one for a full-time job and the other had a full-time workload change that made balancing two jobs difficult. The third was Shelia and the library will be looking hard for her replacement. There are some limitations on the recruitment options for a specialized position like this, but every so often there's a children's librarian shake-up in the area, the last time that happened is when we discovered Shelia. The two part time clerk positions and a page have been hired and all will start in September. Kudos to Amy and Emily for managing the starting/training details for so many at one time.

The social work intern, Alex Hill started today on 9/12. Everyone is looking forward to seeing what kind of projects she will put into motion and what kind of programming we will be able to offer via partners in the area.

Adult Programming – Amy reported that the numbers are in for the summer reading program. Overall, they are consistent compared to last year even though it ended a month earlier. The number of reading logs turned in was 94, only one less than last year. Seventy-seven people entered at least one grand prize entry and there were 97 additional entries for program participation. August program attendance was on track with last year as well. The Book Hedgehog program was successful with 17 participants and 20 people came to the Cornival event with Liz Garst. Upcoming programs include a peaceful puzzling, a puzzle tournament, scary movie trivia, and a Halloween mystery night.

Teen Services – Emily reported that the teen programming attendance bounced back up with 51 total attendees at 7 programs, averaging about 7 kids per event. Tie Dye Tote Bags was popular with 12 attending, Canvas & Cookies had 11 attendees, and 10 came and played on the VR headsets – putting that Meta grant to good use! Perler beads was fun, and the kids requested to do it again, and crochet and Out of the Box continue to draw several regulars. Overall, a great month especially considering that the end of summer vacations and the State Fair generally bring attendance at programs down.

Children's Services – Shelia was not at the meeting, as she has started her new job, and she said her farewell and thanked everyone for all the patience and support over the last seven years.

She reported that August was a little calmer than the very busy summer. The Toddler Town program was a big surprise bringing in 90 attendees. Luckily, some had left or arrived later, so we were able to stay within the room's capacity. Amber helped make some cute props out of cardboard and the kids had fun wearing them out. Another surprise hit was the State Fair Fun that had 40 attendees.

Amber's art and craft programs are always a big hit and have a pretty dedicated group. She hosted a Preschool Picasso outside that had the kids making beautiful Picasso-inspired works of art. Shelia hosted the Anime Taste Test and the Dungeons & Dragons tutorial class again. The groups that came were the same age, but exactly the opposite disposition. The anime kids were super quiet, and the D & D kids were very loud.

The Altoona Aquatics Park allowed the library to rent the park for free again for a Pool Party, although there was some miscommunication and between that and the rain there were 262 kids and parents, and 9 teens show up.

Finally, the summer numbers were finalized and there was a big increase from last year. There were 3,715 people who attended the children's programs this summer. There

were 2,373 in 2022. We are still not back to the numbers back in 2019 when there were over 5,000 people who attend summer programs, but it is steadily growing and felt just as busy as 2019.

7. Unfinished business

- a. Maintenance Update – The sidewalk in front of the library has been replaced and looks great and allows for pallets to be delivered to the front doors. Other quotes will be back in soon for windows, paint.
- b. Strategic Planning Proposal Update – Drafts will be presented in October

8. New Business

- a. CIP/Personnel Requests – Due in November, drafts will be presented in October
- b. Trustee CE – MARC/Cataloging – Kim presented what the system looks like for cataloging new books. Carrie is the library's one part time cataloging tech.

9. Other Business – N/A

10. Agenda items for the next meeting – CIP & Personnel Requests, Behavior Policy, Trustee CE

11. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the library

12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM by consensus.