

**The Colfax Public Library Board**

**August 20, 2024**

President Claudia Kressin called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. in person.

Attendance

* Members present: Nancy Baumgartner, Claudia Kressin, Jeanne Herrick, Melissa Seehaver, Eve Suckow, Gary Stene, and Library Director Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt. Abbie Hartung arrived later (approximately 6pm).
* Non-members present:

Quorum: A quorum has been established.

Open meeting law: We are in certification of compliance with the open meeting law.

Approval of Agenda

* Nancy Baumgartner made a motion to accept the agenda.  Jeanne Herrick seconded the motion.  Unanimously approved by the board.

Approval of Minutes

* Gary Stene made a motion to approve the minutes of April 2024.  Jeanne Herrick seconded the motion.  Unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Bills

* Gary Stene made a motion to approve the bills for July 2024.  Nancy Baumgartner seconded the approval.  Unanimously approved by the Board.

Current Business

* Director’s Report:
  + We had our biggest Summer Reading participation EVER. 150 children signed up, and 101 read 50 books or more and received a nice prize from us. We also handed out 25 complimentary gift bags to children who weren't winners but came in to visit the library. 175 children + their adults attended our two big events at the Fairgrounds.
    - Local businesses and families contributed money and prizes. We were also supported by six adult volunteers and four teen volunteers. Everyone who helped has been thanked. Corduroy the Service dog and his trainer visited children at both events (at no cost to us).
    - We also gave away hundreds of deleted or donated children's books this summer.
    - We also used the book bike at these events.
  + The Library visited Head Start twice this summer and has plans to stay connected to them by advertising our Story Time directly to them this coming year. Miranda Mayfield was our "goodwill ambassador" and got some new library card sign-ups there.
  + We are in the works to resume the "Reading to Residents" program at the senior center.This will be done in coordination with local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.
  + Our youth Shakespeare play in the park (a free program through the Pablo Center) attracted about 25 attendees.We hope to do more of this type of thing in the future.
  + The 83 new Pilcrow books we received are processed and ready for check out.And they're already being checked out! The books are nice and are displayed throughout the library.
  + Jolene did an "Olympic" drop-in craft day and 18 children participated.
  + September 4th, Story Time starts. Programs will be offered one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
  + A woman from the Dunn County Historical Society came. Director Lisa gave her the history of the building and showed her the history room.
  + Director Lisa was invited and attended an event at the Menomonie Public Library that recognized the contribution of libraries in Dunn County and received a framed Proclamation of Support.
  + The Thrift Sale raised $3,660 for the Elevator Project.Now our fundraising total is over $150,000.
  + That said, despite all the good news and increased circulation, the 2025 Budget is going to be challenging. Village residents make up a larger percentage of our circulation in 2023 than previously, so county support has gone down and is slated to be over $18,000 less than what we received in 2024. I am hoping either the Village, Dunn County, or both will soften the blow at least somewhat. I am asking the Village for an additional $6,000 above what they gave us last year. If that's not possible, and the County gives us nothing additional either, our 2025 budget will be very austere. We will need to cut programming, purchases, and do away with our Saturday hours.
    - I've actually prepared four different budgets for 2025, based on different possible funding scenarios:
* Discussion of changes to budget for 2025:
  + If only receive the same amount as last year from the Village then the director is proposing:
    - Cutting Saturday hours
    - No raises for director or staff
    - Only having one large summer reading event/performer
    - Cutting any additional smaller performances throughout the year (eg. The Bubbler, etc.)
  + Director also believes that we can make up some of the budget deficit through grants.
    - There was also discussion about asking for donations, possibly through the Colfax Messenger, or directly to organizations such as Kiwanis.
  + Gene Stene made a motion to have Director present to the Village Board the tentative 2025 Budget. Nancy Baumgartner seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
* Flexible Facilities Grant status: hoping to hear back in October
* Gary Stene reported that there was nothing from the Village or the County to report.
* Mellisa Seehaver reported from the school that:
  + There is an open house for families to meet teachers coming up
  + First day of school is September 3, 2024.
  + Spooktacular reading event in October.
* Nancy Baumgartner reported from the elevator project that we made $3,660 from the thrift sale.
* Gary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Adjourn at 6:22 P.M.

Next meeting will be on September 17, 2024.