

Big Rapids Community Library - Library Board Meeting

Held in Community Room at the Big Rapids Community Library

March 9, 2023

1. Call to Order

- The Library Board Meeting was called to order by Catherine Johnson at 5:30 pm.
- Board Members in attendance: Ralph Crew, Catherine Johnson, and Chelsea Mitchell
- Board Members absent: Laura Herron and Mike Ryan
- Library Staff in attendance: Lauren Perkins (Library Director)

2. Reading and Approval of January 2023 Meeting Minutes

- The January 2023 Meeting Minutes were reviewed.
- Ralph Crew motioned to approve the January 2023 Meeting Minutes. Chelsea Mitchell supported. All members are in favor. Minutes were approved.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- Item Review Form submitted by James Nash for Wild Justice by Philip Margolin.

4. Public Comment

- Colfax Township residents attended the Library Board meeting to get information that they can bring back to their township board concerning the township contracts.

5. Report of the Library Director

- March is Reading Month - from March 1 to 15, Big Rapids patrons can read award-winning Mexican-American and Indigenous author Jennifer Givhan's book *River Woman, River Demon* as an eBook and audiobook for free.
- Welcome to Michelle Stenger, Community Development Director.
- 150 Board Books provided by Friends of the Library from the Catch 'Em in the Cradle program to the Community Baby Shower.
- FOTL budgeted for \$8,000 for additional books for the collection for 2023.
- The City of Big Rapids budgeted \$10,000 for a combination water source/fountain to supply the Community Garden.
- Neighborhood Forest Program: 117 trees ordered from 63 families for Earth Day delivery.
- Rotary has generously offered to assist with FOTL used book sales during the month of July.
- Save-the-Date: Mental Health First Aid Training at the Library on April 20, 2023.
- OOST mini grant for \$5500 for afterschool program supplies.
- Gail Bullard from College of Health Professions at FSU has offered a Naloxone Distribution Box to be placed at the library and filled by her program/grant.
- Hotspot lending extended for one more year through ECF. 20 Kajeet hotspots available. Laptops available.

- Pilot Open Lobby Program from 10:00 - 11:00 am Monday through Friday is in progress.
- Festival of the Arts partnered with the library for Drawing with the Director, Carrie Weiss, Social Media, and Building Blocks Architecture program with Ferris Students
- Storytime is on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00 am.
- New board games added to the collection: Sequence, Wavelength, Anomia, Sneaky Snacky Squirrel, Trouble, Suspend, Trekking the National Parks, Candy Land, Punderdome, Operation, Guess Who?
- Big Rapids Community Library has been selected to host an author for the 2023 Michigan Notable Books Author Tour: Kelsey Ronan author of *Chevy in the Hole: a Novel*. The author's visit is planned for May 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm.
- Sarah went to a Family Engineering Workshop by MiStem, Central Michigan in January and received training and hundreds of dollars of supplies for future STEM programming.
- Upcoming Programs:
 - Wizard of Oz Puppet Show at Bandshell: July 8 at 3:00 PM
 - Herbal Tea Tasting & Workshop on March 11 - registration is FULL
 - Free Digital Literacy & Learning Workshops, March 21
 1. Computers, Internet, and Email Basics 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
 2. Cybersecurity, Mobile Device Basics, and Web Conferencing 2:00 to 4:30 pm

6. Old/Unfinished Business

- Township Contracts
 - Green Township Supervisor Jim Chapman
 1. There are 294 active Green Township patrons
 2. Could the Library Board bill Green Township directly for the non-resident fees for those who wish to use it?
 3. The Green Township Board will not initiate putting the library on their May ballot. An action of the people, however, will be respected but only if there is a petition to put it on the ballot.
 - a. Catherine Johnson - Isn't it the responsibility of the Township Board to inform their residents of this discussion so they have the opportunity to support the library?
 4. The Green Township Board can just give the \$8,000 penal fines to the Reed City Library instead.

7. New Business

- Naloxone Distribution Box

- Ralph Crew motioned that the library places the Naloxone Distribution Box in the library's lobby. Chelsea Mitchell supported. All members are in favor. Motion carried.
- Resolution against Book Bans
 - Ralph Crew motioned that the Library Board endorse the following statement:
 1. Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. Further, parents should not be making decisions for other parents' children about what they read.
 - Chelsea Mitchell supported. All members are in favor. The motion was approved.
 - Mike Ryan is in favor of the Resolution against Book Bans.
- FY 23-24 Budget
 - Waiting for mat quote and salary information.
 - Ralph Crew motioned to approve the budget including the changes stated above. Chelsea Mitchell supported. All members are in favor. Motion carried.

8. Unscheduled Business

- Revision of Township Letters
 - Will not be sent.

9. Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13 at 5:30 pm.

10. Adjournment

- Catherine Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.