

Big Rapids Community Library
Library Board Meeting

Agenda

November 11, 2021

Meeting held in Community Room

1. Call to Order

- The Library Board Meeting was called to order by Catherine Johnson at 5:35 pm.
- Board Members in attendance: Catherine Johnson, Chelsea Mitchell, Jennifer Njenga, and Beth Schoenlein.
- Library Staff in attendance: Lauren Perkins (Library Director) and Sarah Welch (Head of Programs and Services).
- Public in attendance: Paula Priebe (Community Development Director, City of Big Rapids), Karen Simmons (Commissioner, City of Big Rapids), and Eric Williams (Attorney, City of Big Rapids).

2. Reading and Approval of October 2021 Meeting Minutes

- The October 2021 Meeting Minutes were reviewed. The report required a technical correction but no change to content.
- Chelsea Mitchell motioned to approve the October 2021 Meeting Minutes. Jennifer Njenga supported. All members in favor. Minutes were approved.

3. Report of the Library Director

- Auto-Renewal feature implemented for patrons in October 2021
 - Reduces fines and staff time
- Programs: Murder Mystery Kits, Take & Make kits, Walking Club, Paranormal University: Ghost Hunting 101, Scattered Skeleton Scavenger Hunt, Magic for Beginners, Storytime, and Homebound delivery. Over 300 people attended our programs in October.
- Fall Festival: 82 attended. They received a copy of *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson, as well as doing activities. Later in the evening a special showing of Frankenweenie was held outside in the park.
- The Library will be closed to the public on November 25 and 26.
- Circulation Statistics: 39,004 Checkouts - Calendar Year to Date, \$653,411 Total Saved - Calendar Year to date, 41,7444 Searches - Calendar Year to Date
- November 30, we will be participating in Community Giving Day from 11:00 to 6:00 pm. A great opportunity to advocate for the library in person at the Big Rapids Eagles Club: 18361 16 Mile Road.

4. Old Business

- Township Contracts

- No update

5. New Business

- Library Establishment, Library Board Roles, Library Law
 - Clare Membiela, Library Law Consultant from the Library of Michigan, is putting together more detailed information about the library's establishment. It will be brought to the January 2022 Board Meeting.
 - The Library Establishment says that the Library Board is in charge of the library's budget and personnel, both of which are currently handled by the City of Big Rapids.
 1. Library funds should be independent from city funds.
 2. A contract is needed between the Library Board and the City of Big Rapids.
- Libraries as Mental Health Hubs Initiative Acceptance
 - Library staff would receive mental health training.
 - The grant would provide tablets/laptops for virtual mental health visits and a virtual social worker.
 - Includes community awareness events and a \$3000 stipend for training and programming costs.
 - Jennifer Njenga moves to accept the grant. Beth Schoenlein supported. All members are in favor of accepting the grant. The grant will now move to the City Commission for their approval.

6. Unscheduled Business

- Literacy Park: waiting for storywalk, lights and benches. The deadline for completion is the end of March.

7. Public Comment

- none

8. Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

9. Adjournment

- Catherine Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.