

Big Rapids Community Library  
Library Board Meeting

Agenda

January 14, 2021

Meeting held via Zoom

**1. Call to Order**

- The Library Board Meeting was called to order by Catherine Johnson at 5:32 pm.
- Board Members in Attendance: Catherine Johnson, Sharon Kuhn, Chelsea Mitchell, Jennifer Njenga and Beth Schoenlein.
- Library Staff in attendance: Lauren Moran (Library Director) and Sarah Welch (Head of Programs and Services).
- Public in attendance: Paula Priebe (Community Development Director)

**2. Reading and Approval of November 2020 Minutes**

- The November 2020 Meeting Minutes were reviewed. The report required a few technical corrections but no change to content.
- Chelsea Mitchell motioned to approve the November Minutes. Beth Schoenlein supported. All members in favor. Minutes were approved.

**3. Report of the Library Director**

- The Library was open for computer use by appointment starting on January 11, 2021. The Library is also open for Lobby Pick-Up.
- First Zoom Knit Night had 7 participants. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4th at 6:30 pm.
- January Take & Make kits have been going fast. We are looking at creating a higher number of kits in the future months.
- Middle Grade Book Club and YA is Lit both met in January and had limited participation.
- The Library received a \$1,000 grant from the Mid-Michigan Library League to create early literacy kits for ages 2 to 4.
- As a result of the security audit, security lighting was added to the fire escapes and the lighting was fixed near the front entrance stairs.
- Leak in the pipes in the basement bathroom was fixed.
- The Library has new fire extinguishers.
- Bookapalooza Grant books have begun to be delivered and processed. The value of the books that have been processed so far is between \$10,000 and \$13,000. There are more books to come.
- All AWE Early Literacy computers were installed.
- Lauren ordered plaques for the Little Free Libraries.

#### **4. Old Business**

- Paula Priebe: Update on the DNR Grant for the Library Park.
  - In December, Site Plans were sent to the Planning Commission and were approved by the City of Big Rapids. The final construction plans are complete and have been submitted to the state of Michigan for review. Once they are approved, they can be put out for a bid. When the City of Big Rapids chooses the company, we then will get a construction schedule. Work is still planned for spring.

#### **5. New Business**

- Library Services Survey - 63 responses
  - According to the results, early literacy is something the community would like us to focus on.
- Community Vision
  - Multigenerational community
  - Library can be the connector between community members and the information they need.
- Community SWOT/Library SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
  - What is the Library's vision statement?
  - Strengths: education, cultural opportunities, location, and our connection to nature.
  - Cultural Engagement: art, music, and theater in any form.
  - Weaknesses: when you are new, it takes a while to meet people and break through the existing groups
    1. Could the library create a welcome to the community packet or hold a quarterly event for new community members?
  - Threats: poverty, time of the year (winter), it is difficult for people to change how they have always done something, misinformation, and lack of internet access in community.
  - For the March Library Board Meeting, board members will create suggestions for a new Library vision statement to discuss. Send all ideas to Lauren Moran a week before the next meeting.
- Catherine Johnson: Library Points of Pride
  - Personal stories mean more than all the data points and statistics.
  - Celebrating on Facebook: What is your favorite memory of the Library? What are you looking forward to the most when the Library reopens?

#### **6. Public Comment**

- none

#### **7. Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

**8. Adjournment**

- Catherine Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.