

Berkley Public Library Board Meeting Minutes 16 October 2019

Present: Matt Church, Library Director; Carol Hermann (Chairperson), Amanda Rhoda, and Christopher Rennie, Board Members.

Meeting convened 7:10 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Minutes from 18 September 2019 meeting were approved.

Librarian's Report:

The Library Director presented his report for September on library programs & events, staff training & development, maintenance, and the Friends program. Highlights of the report include:

- State Rep. Wittenberg & State Senator McMorrow hosted a “red flag” gun legislation roundtable at the library; 33 people attended
- Programs were plentiful and mostly well attended in September, in particular the musical concert held at Berkley First.
- Two BerkleyPL librarians attended a development workshop on libraries & the provision of service to homeless individuals
- BerkleyPL observed Banned Books Week in September with a display within the library, several social media communications, and trivia event. The programming generated good interaction and discussion.

Old Business:

- September circulation numbers, gate count, computer assistance, and public computer sessions were all up significantly over last year: Circulation +22%; Gate Count +14%; Computer Assistance +85%; Public Computer Sessions +5%

New Business:

- The Friends of BerkleyPL will meet on Monday, October 28th at 7pm

Update from City Council Liason:

- None. (No liaison was present)

Other Matters

- Director Church was interviewed by an ALA podcast around the BerkleyPL circulation story regarding a particular popular fiction title for the podcast series on “library mysteries.”
- There was an incident where two unsecured bicycles were stolen from outside the library by two individuals recently released from Berkley PD custody. The individuals had entered the library and requested assistance for directions and were subsequently found enroute to the location they asked for direction to; the individuals were arrested; and the bicycles recovered. Director Church has indicated that the incident has prompted him to consider acquiring bicycle locks for loan to patron in order to secure their bicycles
- There was another incident where an individual clearly suffering from mental illness entered the library and eventually engaged in disruptive behavior. Berkley PD was called and dealt with the situation professionally. No one was injured. The incident was noted in social media due to the police presence at the library drawing some concern online.
- Director Church brought to the Board’s attention that the trend among public libraries going “fine free” continues to grow. It was noted that Chicago Public Library & Detroit Public Library have both announced their moves to “fine free” policies as have other nearby communities, causing some discussion within the library cooperative consortia. Berkley Public Library intends to stay the course at this time but will continue to monitor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting – 7 p.m., Wednesday, 20 November 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Rennie