

Berkley Public Library Board Meeting Minutes 19 August 2020

Present: Matt Church, Library Director; Rita Van Brandeghen, Chairperson; Carol Hermann, Amanda Rhoda, and Mary Jo Armstrong, Board Members; Natalie Price, City Council liaison. Meeting was conducted via ZOOM.

Meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Minutes from 17 June 2020 meeting were unanimously approved as printed. There was no meeting in July 2020.

Librarian's Report:

The Library Director presented his reports for June and July on programs, equipment updates, re-opening plans and staff. Highlights of the reports include:

- Staff returned to the building on June 15 after all receiving negative COVID-19 tests.
- Curbside pickup and local Berkley delivery of materials began on June 22.
- The Summer Reading Program was done totally online. The library is grateful for the continued financial support of this program by Friends of the Berkley Library and Vibe Credit Union.
- The library continued to provide access to digital resources during the closure.
- A new streaming service, Kanopy, was launched in May as an added service to patrons.
- The library board continues to meet virtually. Most meetings will now be held bi-monthly unless additional meetings are warranted.
- During the closure, the library staff did wellness calls to senior members of our community, conducted virtual story times and kept the community engaged and updated via social media.
- Rebecca Stout was promoted to full-time youth librarian.
- Rebecca Stout, Wendy Scott, and Emily Kirkwood have been instrumental in creating take home craft kits for kids, including 75 kits created to celebrate Harry Potter's birthday. The kits have been very popular and the library is aiming to make craft kits a once per month event.
- Patrons can sign up for library cards online. After filling out the application and obtaining approval, the card number is emailed to the patron for immediate use and the actual card is mailed to their home.
- Teen programming actually saw so growth in numbers, likely due to flexibility in participating online at the teen's convenience.

- Overall numbers for participation in programming were down, but may not be accurately reflected as family units would only be counted singly online, versus per person live attendance.
- The new fiscal year began in July.
- The library was able to purchase 12 new carts at a cost of \$3000.
- Replacement of staff work surfaces and overhead bins in the work room were approved.
- The Tuesday book club has continued to meet virtually with sustained interest.
- The library continues to waive fines as materials are returned late. Additionally, fees are currently waived for movies that are typically considered rentals. It is also now possible to place a hold to borrow movies.
- Further library re-opening plans continue to be on hold as other area libraries have re-opened then been forced to close back up due to COVID-19 exposure and concerns.
- Further re-opening will be gradual when implemented. The next phase is pictured as a “grab & go” scenario with patrons entering the library to pick up items and leave within 30 minutes. There will be no opportunity for gathering. This is consistent with libraries that have currently re-opened.

Old Business:

- July circulation totaled 9,100.
- Kudos to Rebecca Stout & Wendy Scott as youth print circulation surpassed adult print circulation in July.

New Business:

- Matt proposed allowing public printing for patrons of 10 pages of material daily at no cost. Patron requested printing would be emailed to the library to be printed and then picked up curbside. Motion by Amanda Rhoda to accept Matt’s proposal, seconded by Carol Hermann, unanimously approved by the board.
- Matt also discussed the possibility of hot spot lending for patrons to provide wi-fi access when internet access is unavailable. He has investigated costs and it appears that T-Mobile would charge \$30 per month per unit for unlimited access with a 12 month commitment. The board agreed this would be an added service we could provide to patrons. Matt will look into this further with the possibility of adding 2-3 hot spot devices.

Update from City Council Liason:

- Natalie indicated that City Council is recognizing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Tie Michigan Teal for ovarian cancer awareness.
- Eagle Scout Brady Stubblefield was recognized for his project of a Ga-Ga Ball installation.
- Council approved improvements to Merchants Park, including field upgrades, playground upgrades with surface safety installation, wheelchair access, restrooms, and phase I and II of a splash pad installation.

- The city will be starting to determine areas for sidewalk repairs beginning in the SW section of the city. There will be several options available for residents to repay the cost of any slabs which need to be replaced in front of their property. Council continues to investigate other funding sources, such as grants to help offset the costs. If these funds become available later in the project, homeowners who have already paid will be reimbursed proportionately.
- The city, school district and DDA will split the cost of a BHS Plaza project along Coolidge which will include, among other things, a walkway, art installation, and landscaping.

Other Matters

There were no other matters discussed.

Carol Hermann moved to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded by Amanda Rhoda, unanimously approved by the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting – 7 p.m., Wednesday, 21 October 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Hermann