

Library Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 2022

Members present: Finander, Radloff, Romenesko, Rund, Thompson and Halgren (staff)

Absent: Fournier (excused), Gold (excused), Tetrick (excused)

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes - *moved by Radloff, seconded by Romenesko, roll call vote, passed unanimously*
- Bills - *moved by Radloff, seconded by Rund, roll call vote, passed unanimously*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Repair and Maintenance

- On February 9, three new computers were installed for the public to access the Internet. One of the replaced computers will be wiped by IT, updated if necessary, and then installed upstairs to replace the older children's catalog computer.

Virtual Library Cards for SSP Students

- No updates to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Circulation Stats

- January's circulation was 5,642 items, which is a huge increase over last January when we were in limited-service mode with curbside pickup and computer/copier appointments, but down 31% from 2019.

Library Service Status

- The library continues to grapple with employee illness, but there are plans to open for Saturdays in March with COVID infections moving in a downward trend.

Latest New Library Discussions

- Halgren has been involved in many hours of design development meetings that have centered on such elements as fire suppression, fire alarm system, mechanicals, plumbing, lighting, NetZero energy considerations such as battery power storage and solar energy, low voltage issues, A/V components, building security items, SSP history, and interior visioning from thickness of walls to overall interior concepts.
- To keep heat/air conditioning in, the new library will have three-paned, 7-inch windows and 12-inch walls.
- Today's "history" meeting focused on a collage of historic SSP photos to be placed on the wall behind the main desk by the public computers. Ryan Sanford, a local resident who takes wonderful photographs of the city, has agreed to donate any photos we're interested in using at the new library. The board recommended highlighting the past but also leaving room for the present and future in the library and was enthusiastic about using a portion of our endowment fund to commission art for the fireplace in the Heritage Room.
- Thompson mentioned contacting art teacher Faith Purvey if an RFP is drawn up for the project.

MLA Report – Honora Rodriguez

- In the past, we heard about virtual MLA from Sarah Connolly, Youth Services Librarian, but Honora Rodriguez, Adult Services Librarian, also attended and was impressed by sessions that covered land acknowledgements and libraries, crisis response by Hennepin County Library in terms of anti-racist eBooks on unlimited loan following the murder of George Floyd, and tarot programming in libraries.

CareerForce Corner Partnership

- State Library Services at the Minnesota Department of Education is interested in partnering libraries with local CareerForce (CF) agencies in order to provide current, accurate job search information to library patrons.
- The library has signed up to be a CareerForce Corner partner and expects to hear from our local job service team in the next few weeks. Informational kits are being created for libraries to promote the resources offered at the 50 CareerForce Centers in the state, and monthly virtual meetings are planned between CF staff and library staff. The library will be listed as a library partner organization on careerforcemn.com, which may boost computer use at our location.
- Karen Dyson will be our contact/coordinator.

State of the City – February 23

- The State of the City will be recorded live at 5 pm on February 23 in the City Council chambers and broadcast on Channel 18/HD798.
- The theme is “The Changing Faces of South St. Paul,” and it will run 28 minutes with updates concerning finance, the library, economic development, infrastructure, staffing changes, things to watch for in 2022, and community happenings.

100th Anniversary Banner

- We’ve made it official with a banner over our entrance celebrating our 100 years of existence as South St. Paul Public Library! Planning is going strong regarding the Block Party in June, and there’s an old library card take and make kit available for patrons by the front door.
- For more information about planned events, visit the library’s web page at <http://www.southstpaul.org/826/100th-Anniversary>.

Pandemic Programming Highlights

Adult Programs

- As the library tries out a few in-person adult programs, we’re finding that sometimes hybrid works best, as with our last virtual/in-person book club with 2 in-person participants and 5 virtual participants (2/10). Five people enjoyed virtual Cookbook Club: Chicano Eats (2/7), and seven people learned embroidery stitches with Parcel Arts (1/24).
- *Upcoming*: Book Discussion of Lisa Genova’s *Love Anthony* (3/10); SSP Library History with Lois Glewwe (3/21).

Children’s Programs

- The January scavenger hunt in the children’s area drew 26 children to search for books from the 1920s in honor of our 100th Anniversary. Brodini, Comedy Magician, did not disappoint for 24 attendees (1/28), as the library welcomed a small group of children and parents into our performance space. Acrylic Painting with Artistry attracted six attendees (2/8).
- *Upcoming*: Dakota County Library will be reinstating outdoor storytimes in June, and SSP will follow suit. Storytelling for Parents and Caregivers (2/28); Sticker Art, Poster and Patches with COMPAS Teaching Artist Lisa Arnold for Teens (3/7).

Other/Correspondence

- The library received adult-sized N95 NIOSH masks from the Minnesota Department of Health for distribution to the public. Patrons are limited to three masks per person.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Radloff, seconded by Rund, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Next meeting – March 14, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Halgren
Library Director

Programming Statistics

January and partial February 2022

Program name	Program Start Date	Format (select the cell and choose from the dropdown)	Target age (choose from dropdown)	Attendance: in-person programs	Attendance: live virtual programs	Views at 7 days: recorded programs	Participants: self-directed activities
Scavenger Hunt	01/03/22	Self-directed activity	ages 0-5				26
Book Club	01/13/22	Live virtual program	Adult (ages 19+)		5		
Virtual Trivia Night	01/20/22	Live virtual program	Adult (ages 19+)		11		
Embroidery	01/24/22	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	7			
Brodini Comedy Magician	01/28/22	In-person onsite program	ages 6-11	24			
Cookbook Club: Chicano Eats	02/07/22	Live virtual program	Adult (ages 19+)		5		
Acrylic Painting	02/08/22	In-person onsite program	ages 6-11	6			
Book Club	02/10/22	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	2			
Book Club	02/10/22	Live virtual program	Adult (ages 19+)		5		
Scavenger Hunt	02/14/22	Self-directed activity	ages 0-5				18