

Library Board Meeting Minutes June 12, 2023

Members present: Finander, Gold, Hart, Rund, Tetrick, Thompson, Halgren (staff), Rodriguez (staff)

Absent: Romanesko (excused), Styles Spooner (excused)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes
- Bills

Approval of the consent agenda items moved by Rund, seconded by Tetrick, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kaposia Days Parade

- With the Dakota County Library “On the Go” van also participating with SSP staff in the Kaposia Days Parade, staff chose a construction theme with hard hats and lightweight vests. The banner will state “Building a New South St. Paul Library Together!”.
- In order for staff to get up to the parade site on time, staff would like to close an hour earlier at 5 pm on June 23.

Motion to approve a 5 pm close of the library on Friday, June 23, to accommodate staff to line up and participate in the Kaposia Days Grande Parade moved by Tetrick, seconded by Hart, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Circulation Stats

- The library circulated 6,429 items in April, which was 1.3% lower than in April 2022.
- In May, the library circulated 6,272 items, which was 6.3% lower than in May 2022.

Latest New Library Discussions

- Nick Guilliams, City Engineer, has confirmed that construction of 7th Avenue N./2nd Street will begin on June 15.
- The new building is on schedule with the plumbing/sewer system finished; DCL director Margaret Stone believes we will be closing our current building around December 1 with materials being returned to other branches until we open the new building.
- Stone has also requested via the County Manager’s update to the County Board that the Board consider the name Kaposia Library for its new 10th branch in recognition and acknowledgement of the importance of this locality to Native Americans. She hopes to hear their decision within a week or so.
- On June 9, SSP staff completed ordering new materials through October.
- Halgren shared the RFP for the art commission over the fireplace in the new library. Submissions are due July 17. Upon request, the Dakota County Public Art Citizen Advisory Committee graciously agreed to a 5K match for commissioning this artwork, so the final project will be funded at 10K.
- After completing one-on-one meetings with Margaret Stone, library staff are meeting with Ryan Garcia, City Administrator, Tuesday morning to express their concerns about the upcoming merger.

- DC staff have confirmed that the two employees from the City of Lakeville were offered the same package as SSP employees are being offered when the licensing center merged with the County.

2023 Budget Update

- Because staff have left employment or will be moving into other positions soon, the performance pay/severance document has been updated to reflect the status of employees as of July.

Motion to approve the updated performance/severance pay awards as discussed and delineated for library staff who either retire in 2023 or transition to Dakota County employees on January 1, 2024, moved by Rund, seconded by Thompson, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Library Repurposing Study

- The City has received word that the state will fund the \$175,000 library repurposing study proposed for 2024 in bills authored by Rep. Hansen and Sen. Klein once staff have vacated the library building.
- These funds will be appropriated to study the overall use of the building, the presence of hazardous materials, accessibility issues and code compliance, engineering and architectural design, and the wishes of the community through engagement efforts.

Leslie Greaves Radloff Memorial Area at DCHS

- Dakota County Historical Society has set up a “Book Nook” in former Library Board member and DCHS board member Leslie Greaves Radloff’s honor.
- The board has previously voted to contribute to this area.
- On June 8, Sarah Connolly, Youth Services Librarian, and Director Halgren met with Lisa Imbryk, Membership Coordinator at DCHS, to discuss what we might purchase for the nook. We settled on a collection of children’s and adult books, some fidgets for children, and a nice rug for children to play/sit on.

Summer Discovery

- The library is excited to be once again offering the Summer Discovery learning/reading program this year. It will be similar to last year’s program with an emphasis on learning about and growing positive relationships within our community.
- Activities include our popular storytimes for babies and preschoolers, Summer Playhouse on Wednesdays, STEM labs, Cooking with Kids with the U of MN Extension, Wooden Worlds by COMPAS teaching artist Emmett Ramstad, DIY Pet Treat Puzzles with cat behaviorist Sara Post, “crafternoons” for teens and children, and an interactive concert with The Jolly Pops.
- Every child or teen that participates in this program will receive a free book.
- Summer Discovery (see attached flyer) runs from June 12 through July 14.

Programming Highlights

Adult Programs

- Organic Wire Sculptures (5/15) was another hit with local crafters, and participants had an informative, enjoyable evening listening to author Shannon Gibney (6/8).
- *Upcoming:* July Book Discussion of *A Woman is No Man* by Etaf Rum.

Children’s Programs

- MacPhail’s Wheels Make Music class (5/15) was well attended with 29 participants, and Connolly spoke to many families at the Lincoln Center Spring Fling (5/11) and the ECFE Summer Kick Off Party in the amphitheater (6/1). Summer Discovery begins today with a Paper Circuit STEM Lab and the first segment of Cooking with Kids.
- *Upcoming:* Many storytimes, STEM labs, and crafternoons for kids and teens; Wooden Worlds (6/15); DIY Pet Treat Puzzles with Sara Post (6/30); and The Jolly Pops (7/7).

Other/Correspondence

- Juneteenth is now an official holiday for the state, so the library will be closed Monday, June 19. The Library Board heartily supports the inclusion and celebration of this holiday!

Motion to adjourn the June Library Board meeting made by Tetrick, seconded by Rund, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Next meeting – July 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Halgren
Library Director

Programming Statistics

May through partial June 2023

Program name	Program Start Date	Format	Target age	Attendance: in-person programs	Attendance: live virtual programs	Views at 30 days: recorded programs	Participants: self-directed activities
Scavenger Hunt	05/01/23	Self-directed activity	ages 0-5				32
Storytime for 2s-6s	05/02/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	7			
Storytime for Babies	05/03/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	4			
Toddlers Takeover	05/05/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	8			
Storytime for 2s-6s	05/09/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	13			
Storytime for Babies	05/10/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	11			

Lincoln Center Spring Fling	05/11/23	In-person offsite program	all ages	163			
Adult Book Club	05/11/23	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	7			
Organic Wire Sculptures	05/15/23	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	10			
Wheels Make Music: Sing, Play and Learn with MacPhail	05/16/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	29			
Storytime for Babies	05/17/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	8			
Toddlers Takeover	05/19/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	12			
ECFE Summer Kick Off Party	06/01/23	In-person offsite program	all ages	87			
Toddlers Takeover	06/02/23	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	16			
Author Shannon Gibney	06/08/23	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	12			
STEM Lab: Paper Circuits	06/12/23	In-person onsite program	ages 6-11	19			
Cooking with Kids	06/12/23	In-person onsite program	all ages	9			