

Algoma Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Director Cathy Kolbeck, Lila Schlorf, Midge Swedberg, Diana Vlies, Braelyn Dempsey, Nicole Meverden, Lin Sherman (Left at 5:07pm), Sue Hass (Left at 5:07pm)
Also Present: City Administrator Matt Murphy, Mayor Steve Lautenbach, Alder Amy Johnson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

The November 18, 2024 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Algoma Public Library was called to order by Nicole Meverden at 4:00pm. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Midge Swedberg, seconded by Lila Schlorf. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: The following spoke under Public Comment:

- Peggy DeGroot, 505 N Park Road, Algoma. DeGroot voiced concerns regarding moving the library to the upper portions of the bank and stated she would like to see other alternatives be considered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Algoma Public Library was made by Diana Vlies, seconded by Sue Hass. Motion carried.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: Sue Hass gave an update on the Library Friends and the Book Corner. The Algoma Book Corner continues to do well. The entire store will be half off for Small Business Saturday. The Library Friends hosted their annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, November 2 and it was a great success. Anyone who would like to become a Friend of the Library, can stop in at the library.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Cathy Kolbeck gave an update on previous and upcoming library programs:

- The annual Halloween Party went great with approximately 135 attendees in just one-hour period.
- Storytimes continue on Tuesdays at 10:30am
- Wednesday, November 20, 3pm – Virtual Reality Headsets will be available
- Friday, November 22, 3:30pm – Teen Trivia
- Monday, November 25, 3:30pm – Twisted Tales Book Club
- Wednesday, November 27, 3:00pm – Nintendo Switch
- Monday, December 2, 12:30pm – Afternoon Matinee
- Friday, December 6, 4:30pm – Polar Express Program
- Monday, December 9, 3:30pm – Tie Angels
- Thursday, December 12, 3:00pm – Steam Programming

Cathy mentioned that all of this information can be found on our Website and Facebook page.

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Midge Swedberg asked if there is a way to share and make available library statistics for those interested in seeing them. Director Kolbeck will work on putting some monthly information together to share on the library website and social media pages.

The library will be closed November 28, 29, and 30 for Thanksgiving.

Stephanie and Faith attended the Wisconsin Library Association Conference November 6-8 in Green Bay.

The library received funding for another year of service for our Wi-Fi Hotspots from an anonymous donor through the Nicolet Federated Library System.

Cathy went over some of the reasons people visited the library over the past month which include: check out materials, attend programming, make copies, meeting room use, computer use, local history and genealogy research, playdates, read the newspapers and magazines, place to warm up, work on the puzzle, quiet study and work space, resume and cover letter help, help send a text, help set up a PayPal account, use our Wi-Fi, help with devices, and more.

TREASURERS REPORT: Revenues and disbursements were presented to the Library Board.

LIBRARY BILLS: Midge Swedberg had a question regarding the Press Gazette Newspaper and the cost of renewing the subscription. She asked if people are coming in and using them. Cathy informed the board that people come into the library on a daily basis to read the newspapers. A motion to approve the November expenditures was made by Lin Sherman, seconded by Braelyn Dempsey. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion of New Library Building & Move

Board member Schlorf began the discussion by stating that other alternatives should be looked at. She stated “we are a small town library, but there is nothing small about our services”.

Director Kolbeck stated that herself, Board President Meverden and Board Vice-President Vlies had toured the building just before the board meeting. They met with a representative from Bayland Buildings to go over some of the things needed and to take into consideration when putting together plans. The new proposed space is approximately 3,650 square feet. The city is looking at the possibility of adding an additional approximate 1,600 square feet to help with space concerns. Board member Meverden stated that the current portion of the main level of the library (not including the lower area) is comparable with the proposed new space.

Board member Dempsey raised concerns for need of storage. She also questioned that if the possible addition does not happen, would there be opportunity for shared spaces within the building for storage and program space.

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Board member Schlorf mentioned that with potential loss of space, moveable bookshelves had been brought up in past discussions. She voiced concern that moving bookshelves to make space for library programming could possibly eliminate people from using the library during programming. Board member Dempsey stated that usable spaces will be important and that space where families can be families without interrupting others will also have to be considered.

Director Kolbeck mentioned some of the concerns people came to her with over the last month that include concerns of accessibility with the library being on the second floor, potential loss of space and moving to a smaller space, and the location of new space and moving away from the school.

Board member Meverden mentioned a potential after school bus route with a stop at the new space.

Board member Hass questioned the plan for current building and whether or not a second estimate could be looked at for heating system. Hass stated that she would like see the library stay in its current location.

Director Kolbeck raised concern about putting the library on the second floor. The library's current location was moved from an upstairs location back in the 1970's to current location so the library would not only have more space, but be more accessible to its patrons. Kolbeck stated that libraries are not the same as they were back then, and are very different from even 20 years ago. Modern libraries are not just spaces to pick up a book, they are community hubs with open spaces, meeting rooms, study rooms, large program rooms and space for people to gather. Kolbeck also emphasized that we do not yet have plans for new space and that when we have a chance to look at the plans, some of the concerns that have been brought up today will be able to be answered. Kolbeck also raised concern that the proposed location might not work long term depending on what those plans look like.

Some concerns of moving to new proposed space from those in attendance included potential parking issues and moving the library to the second floor.

NEW BUSINESS: Director Evaluations—Board members received a copy to fill out and return by next board meeting. Cathy will also email the information to those who would rather fill out the google form. Nicole Meverden will compile all the responses for the next library board meeting.

ADJORN: A motion to adjourn was made by Midge Swedberg, seconded by Diana Vlies. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:11pm. The next meeting of the Algoma Public Library Board of Trustees will be Monday, December 16, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Minutes Recorded by Lila Schlorf

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Written by Cathy Kolbeck
November 19, 2024