



Library Board June 2022 Meeting

June 9, 5:30 pm

VPL 2nd Floor Community Meeting Room (yes, we are in person)

Call to order: SAA, MA, DB, CC, JC, MJ, SJ, MR

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve Minutes May 2022
3. Public Comment
4. Continuing Business
 - a. Schematic Design Progress
5. New Business
 - a. Consider hotspot lending
6. Director's Report
 - a. Statistical Report
 - b. Financial Report
7. Adjourn

Director's Report

Building & Architects

Mark your calendars for June 28, 5:30 pm for the City Council meeting where Alex Ramsey will present to the council the renovation design plans. We will include information about the cost estimate and provide some funding scenarios, but will not be asking for any action at this time. A project this big needs some digesting before good action can happen. I am meeting with the City finance director to get a better understanding of what our options may be from the City.

Library Use

We do quarterly counts of the number of people who come through the door, tech help, reference questions and curbside service. This is all reported on the annual report. The April count average for people was 129/day, questions 16/day, tech help 8/day and curbside average is just .4 (we only had two that week). Our traditional circulation is still about 1500 to 2000 lower per month compared to 2018 or 2019. Unique users for the digital collections are 422 people; our total library card holder number (2021) is 6044 so only .07% of our card holders take advantage of the electronic collection. Just as comparison, Superior has 816 unique users, Hayward 346, Spooner 271. This information tells me we definitely are relevant to people who want physical items.

Programs

All the staff are working together to make summer reading a big hit. Kathy is our lead creative librarian, getting games and crafts ready for our kick off. Phil revived the seed library and folks are beginning to take advantage of it. I think it is a program that's a slow grower (ha), but easy to have for those who want it. The Friends will celebrate 40 years this fall. Kathy Allen (long time Friend) would like to have video interviews of community people telling their library love stories. So, that's a big project we are just beginning on. I'll have an invite out soon to recruit people to tell their stories. Maybe you have one? :)

Equipment

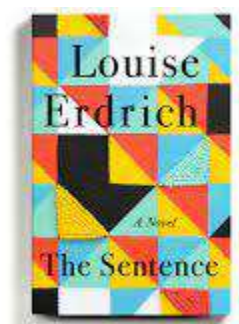
NWLS has 2 hotspots available (per library) which were purchased through Federal Emergency Connectivity Funds. I will include in an email a draft policy and procedure for you to consider. Because the equipment is purchased with federal funds, there are a few requirements that impact how they are used.

Book Recommendation

The library book club for curious adults just discussed Louise Erdrich's *The Sentence*. I read it a few months ago & as usual am still thinking about the characters and story crafted by Ms. Erdrich. Here's amazon's blurb.

Louise Erdrich's latest novel, The Sentence, asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book. A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading "with murderous attention," must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

Next month we are reading *Fallen Idols: 12 Statues that Made History* / Alex von Tunzelmann



Sarah Adams, Director