

# **Gering Public Library**

1055 P Street  
Gering, Nebraska 69341  
[www.gering.org/library](http://www.gering.org/library)

Phone: (308) 436-7433  
Fax: (308) 436-6869  
Email: [gpl@geringlibrary.org](mailto:gpl@geringlibrary.org)

The Gering Public Library Board will meet on Tuesday, December 19th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Gering Library Community Room.

## **AGENDA**

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Public Comments (Board reserves the right to limit the length of time a citizen may speak)
- 3) Approval of minutes as written
- 4) Reading and approval of statistical & financial reports
- 5) Approval of the bills
- 6) Library Director's report
- 7) City Council Liaison Report
- 8) Gering Library Foundation Liaison Report
- 9) Unfinished business
- 10) New business
  - Review, discuss, update Public Services Policy to reflect increase in amount charged for ILL postage.
- 11) Closed session (Board reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary)

## **MINUTES OF THE November 21st, 2023 BOARD MEETING**

Present:

Board Members: Brad Gross, Mary Robinson, Michelle Moore, Jeff Kelley, Lexi Tallmon

Library Director: Christie Clarke

Gering Public Library Foundation Board Liaison: Jay Skiles

Kelley called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Next, board members reviewed the October 2023 board meeting minutes. Kelley asked for a motion to approve. Robinson moved to approve the minutes and Tallmon seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Moore, Robinson, Gross, Kelley, Tallmon. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed unanimously. Next, the board reviewed September stats and expenditures. Gross motioned to approve expenditures and statistical reports and Moore seconded the motion. The vote was called. "Ayes": Moore, Gross, Robinson, Kelley, Tallmon. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed unanimously. Kelley called for a motion to approve the bills. Robinson motioned and Tallmon seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Tallmon, Gross, Robinson, Moore, Kelley. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: none. The vote passed unanimously. City council liaison was absent and the Foundation Board liaison had no report as they had not met in November.

## Director's Report:

1. Clarke shared that the Friends of the Gering Library annual meeting which featured a Jane Austen program called Tea @ Two with Jane Austen was a huge success with 50 in attendance including board members Robinson and Gross. Clarke thanked the two who attended. Clarke reported that this was also the kick-off event for Nebraska Library Week (NLW) with Mayor Kent Ewing beginning the meeting by reading the NLW Proclamation for Gering. During the meeting a new Friends board was elected to reflect Carol Enderle as the president, Kathy Yost as vice president, Paula McDowell as the treasurer, and Karen Carrizales as the secretary.
2. Clarke reported that the new circulation desk quote agreement had been signed and the desk ordered. It should take around 5-6 weeks to arrive and installation should happen in January. Clarke shared the designs.
3. Clarke noted that she and Annie Folck had begun writing grants for the ADA access ramp project. They are pursuing ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities and Black Hills Energy grants.
4. Clarke reported that as per the 5-year technology plan, new kids and teen computers plus one card catalog computer had been ordered in a group order with the city. This group ordering allows for a bigger break in cost. Clarke shared that next week Technology rep for the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC), Andrew Sherman, will be visiting GPL next week and together with Intralinks will install new computer filters that are offered by the NLC for free.
5. Clarke noted that Sherry Preston is researching what other libraries use on their websites for calendars, events, reservations etc. She has already talked with Hastings Public Library reps and has seen Kearney Public Library's website as well. She has looked into Library Market and Vega as two such programs.
6. Clarke shared that the Humanities NE grant funded Prime Time Family Reading literacy program will finish on November 30<sup>th</sup> and it has been very successful with 8-9 out of the original 11 registered families consistently attending. Local businesses and entities that GPL has partnered with to provide the weekly door prize are FNBO, WNCC, Joe Mejia Insurance Agency, Roma Italian Restaurant, JB's Mexican Restaurant, Classic Lanes Bowling, Fresh Foods, the Gering Library Foundation, Western Pioneers Baseball, and Eakes Office Solutions.
7. Clarke reported that the ending event for NLW, Dog Man Day, was a great success with 45 in attendance.
8. Clarke shared that Ozobot tech kits from the Nebraska Library Commission were successfully used in programs for different ages groups including elementary children, older adults via the Steamworks program, and with the ALL program for adults with physical and cognitive disabilities.
9. Clarke noted that another family event, Board Game night will be held on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.
10. Clarke shared that 31 people attended the recent Local Author Showcase.
11. Clarke reported that youth services librarian, Kira Perez, had added three new storytime backpacks to the collection-Zoo, Alphabet, and Colors. These backpacks were made possible by the Rob-See-Co grant that Perez wrote with a 10% match from the Friends of the Gering Library.
12. Clarke shared that GPL was awarded a little over \$3,000 of Keno funds for new digital signs for the children's space. Preston and Perez submitted the Keno application.
13. Clarke pointed out that the Mah Jongg program continues to be popular and has now reached the end of the first phase which is 3 weeks of learning the game and has moved on to just meeting and playing.
14. Clarke shared that adult Anime Night will be on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Preston reached out to the local Comic Con group to promote this program.
15. Clarke invited board members to attend the Friends annual Mingle & Jingle to be held on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> from 3-6.
16. Clarke shared that she had been participating in leadership training that is being provided for city department heads by the Human Resources department.

17. Clarke reported that recently there had been library items returned with roaches in them. After researching the American Library Association and the Nebraska Library Association protocols, reaching out to the Western Library System director and the director of the LIED Scottsbluff library (LSBPL) on current trends and current policies, Clarke decided on a protocol for GPL. Clarke shared that she updated city administrator Pat Heath on her research and protocol idea for GPL and received his support. Clarke reported that she had purchased a ThermalStrike Ranger Bed Bug Heater to use in the library. This decision was made after conferring with the LSBPL director which is what they use for the same problem and after talking with the owner of the ThermalStrike company to confirm that the device kills all manner of living organisms. The protocol would be to speak with the patrons who have returned the buggy items so they would be aware of the problem and to note that they may incur damage fees then to use the device to treat all returned buggy items before returning items to the collection.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business:

None

Kelley adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Christie Clarke  
Library Director