

Gering Public Library

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The Gering Public Library Board will meet on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 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
 - Hand out and review new Trustee Manuals.
 - Discuss the book *On Censorship: A Public Librarian Examines Cancel Culture in the Us* by James LaRue
 - Discuss attendance and Open Meetings Act
 - Discuss the annual Library Board Report to council
- 11) Closed session (Board reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary)

MINUTES OF THE January 16th, 2024 BOARD MEETING

Present:

Board Members: Brad Gross, Mary Robinson, Jeff Kelley, Suzanne Myers

Library Director: Christie Clarke

Kelley called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Clarke asked that an item be added to New Business. Clarke would like a brief review of the Library Trustee manual. Kelley asked for a motion to add this item to New Business. Myers motioned to add the item and Gross seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Robinson, Myers, Gross, Kelley. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously. Next, board members reviewed the December 2023 board meeting minutes. Kelley asked for a motion to approve. Gross moved to approve the minutes and Robinson seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Robinson, Gross, Myers, Kelley. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously. Next, the board reviewed December stats and financial reports. Robinson motioned to approve financial and statistical reports and Gross seconded the motion. The vote was called. "Ayes": Myers, Gross, Robinson, Kelley. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously. The board next

reviewed the bills and Kelley called for a motion to approve them. Myers motioned and Gross seconded it. The vote was called. “Ayes”: Myers, Gross, Robinson, Kelley. “Nays”: none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously. There was no report from the City Council liaison and Foundation Board liaison as they were both absent.

Director’s Report:

1. Clarke reported that the phone issues had mostly been resolved
2. Clarke shared that the new circulation desk that was supposed to be installed in January has been delayed until the beginning of February.
3. Clarke stated that she is about halfway through the annual library survey that is required for accreditation and state funding.
4. Clarke reported that on Thursday, January 11th, the library closed early at 4 p.m. due to inclement weather and out of caution for the safety of the evening shift library workers. Clarke conferred with city administrator, Pat Heath, to get the okay.
5. Clarke shared that the library had a squirrel in the ceiling of the library. The city building inspector placed a live trap in the ceiling and trapped the animal. The city electric department sent workers to take the trap and release the squirrel out in the countryside.
6. Clarke noted that Public Services Librarian, Sherry Preston, has planned “The Year of the Dragon” program for February 3rd. The Chinese teacher for the Scottsbluff schools will be the speaker about Chinese New Year. The program will be held at 1 p.m. and will provide hot tea as a refreshment.
7. Clarke shared that Preston is also planning on having a live-action Oregon Trail game for the summer reading program. Preston has applied for a NE Historical Society grant to help fund this program.
8. Clarke reported that Preston is also planning on having Amberley Snyder as a speaker in the fall. Snyder is a barrel racer who became a paraplegic due to a car accident then figured out how to overcome her disability to continue barrel racing. She speaks to groups across the country about her journey and perseverance. Preston is planning on pursuing a Humanities NE grant to help fund this program and is also reaching out to local AG groups for sponsorship as Snyder is sponsored by AG vendors. Preston plans on Snyder providing two separate talks and is promoting this program to her ALL groups and ESU 13 but it will also be open to the public.
9. Clarke shared that Preston is going to be speaking to two local civic groups to spread awareness about her ALL programs.
10. Clarke distributed a copy of the updated Public Services policy from last month’s meeting to each board member.
11. Clarke shared a book, *On censorship: a public librarian examines cancel culture in the US* (2023) by James LaRue. Library staff made the suggestion that each board member read this title as it contains excellent information that may be useful to them as library trustees. Suzanne Myers took the book to be the first to read it.
12. Clarke noted that the security cameras has been adjusted in height and angle to give a better view and picture of individuals entering the library in case it would be necessary to identify someone.
13. Clarke shared that board member, Brad Gross, had tendered his resignation effective immediately after this meeting.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business:

-Clarke shared a report from Western Library System Director, Cindy Osbourne, on the requirements for election of Library Board Secretary in other public libraries in the western panhandle of the state. She noted that no other library has the Library Director as the Board Secretary. She also explained that the director needs to be present in the board meeting to share their report and take notes, if necessary, on items discussed and that it is difficult to do so when acting as Board Secretary. Clarke then shared that the current bylaws contradict itself by first stating, "The officers of the Governing Board will be elected at the January meeting of the Board and will be as follows: President, Vice President, and Secretary." Then later stating, "The Secretary of the Board will be the Library Director." Clarke asked that the line, "The Secretary of the Board will be the Library Director" be taken out of the bylaws so that the first statement about election of officers could stand alone and the Board Secretary would furthermore be elected from the board members. Kelley then asked for a motion to amend the bylaws as stated by Clarke. Myers motioned for the amendment and Gross seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Kelley, Myers, Robinson, Gross. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: "Tallmon". The vote passed unanimously.

-Kelley asked for a motion to elect new board officers. Myers motioned to nominate Kelley for Board President and Robinson seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Myers, Gross, Robinson, Kelley. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously. Next, Kelley asked for nominations for Vice President. Myers motioned to nominate Robinson and Gross seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Gross, Myers, Kelley, Robinson. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously. Finally, Kelley asked for nominations for Secretary. Robinson motioned to nominate Myers as Secretary and Gross seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Gross, Robinson, Kelley, Myers. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously.

-Clarke asked board members to review the Trustee Manual with her to find out what individual members might be missing from their manual so she could provide it at the next meeting. Clarke took notes and will provide missing items at the February meeting.

Kelley asked for a motion to adjourn. Robinson motioned and Meyers seconded it. The vote was called. "Ayes": Robinson, Gross, Myers, Kelley. "Nays": none. Abstaining: none. Absent: Tallmon. The vote passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Christie Clarke
Library Director