

Minutes of the January 27, 2022 Meeting of the Liberty Municipal Library Board

The January 27, 2022 meeting of the Liberty Municipal Library Board was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Mitzi Kline in the library conference room.

All members were present: Mitzi Kline, June Damek, Stacy Sundgren, Sandy Pickett, Gloria Stratton, Farrah Harper, Bill Buchanan, Tinya Griffin, and Mychal English. Also attending were Assistant City Manager Chris Jarmon, Friends of the Library President Cathy Harbour, and Library Director Dana Abshier.

New member Farrah Harper was welcomed to the group.

The minutes of the October 21, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Sandy Pickett made the motion to approve the minutes and Bill Buchanan seconded. The motion was approved.

There were no public comments.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Stacy Sundgren. Dana reported the income from the various trusts funds and said that October's annual interest distribution had decreased significantly from last year. The 2021 income was \$5,219.95 and the 2020 income was \$12,308.88. June Damek made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Tinya Griffin seconded, and the motion was approved.

Friends of the Library President Cathy Harbour gave the Friends report. She said the Friends had helped with the holiday book sale, had provided party food for the staff at Christmas, and had purchased a much-needed new book cart for the staff. She said the Jubilee Book and Bake Sale will not include baked items this year; it will be a bake-less bake sale.

In the Librarian's Report, Dana gave a PowerPoint slide show featuring the staff's fall scarecrows, the holiday book sale, the repair of a persistent pothole in the front driveway, AC, fire alarm and boiler problems, and the new teen section. She also reported that two lovely bouquets of flowers were given to the library during the recent book controversy. The Liberty Police Department had given the staff active shooter training that was very beneficial. She reported that the library renovation project has begun, and a pre-bid conference had been held that day with over 22 people attending. The bids will be opened on February 10.

The board members and Dana then discussed the recent book controversy at length. Dana explained all the measures the staff had taken following the serious public accusations against the library. The staff and several volunteers have been going through the children's, juvenile, teen, and young adult collections looking for books that could become targets for the group of citizens who very publicly accused the library of having a pornographic book in the juvenile collection. City of Liberty Administration has asked the library to move books in which the main characters are part of the LGBTQ+ community to the adult section.

Board members discussed instituting a no photography rule for patrons in the library. One of the complainants in the book controversy had taken photos of book displays and manipulated them so that it appeared the library was promoting only LGBTQ+ books in a YA display. Extensive photos of pages from *Tell Me: What Children Really Want to Know About Bodies, Sex and Emotions* had been taken and posted on Facebook and on Liberty PAC's social networking page. A book that had never been checked out was thereby seen by countless people.

There was no unfinished business. In New Business the board looked over a new book ordering and processing procedures policy. In this new policy, each book ordered for children, juveniles, teens and young adults will be carefully screened by at least five staff members as it is made ready to be checked out. Each book will be checked for sexually explicit graphics or content by five employees. Dana said she wanted to add a sentence stating that each book order card will be initialed by the person writing the order card, and the board suggested limiting the policy's focus to the purchase of materials for minor children.

Bill Buchanan made the motion to approve the Book Ordering and Processing Procedures Policy with the two changes, and June Damek seconded. The motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.