

Independence Public Library Minutes Feb. 20, 2025

Order 6:31 by Robin

Those in attendance were board members Robin Bleichner, Nancy Dodge, Emily Ownby, Matt Rittgers, and Quentin Stenger. Also present were Laura Blaker, Library Director, Lisa Lorenzen, Associate City Clerk, and Bret Weber, City Council Liaison.

Review Agenda Emily 1st motion, 2nd by Nancy to approve. Removing #15 (board training) from agenda. Passed unanimously.

December minutes reviewed, Motion to approve agenda by Nancy, 2nd by Emily. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve January 2025 minutes by Quentin with 2nd Matt. Passed unanimously.

Bills reviewed. Motion to approve bills made by Nancy and 2nd by Quentin. Passed unanimously.

Circulation stats. Cake pan competition was successful and well received. Recent cake wars competition has increased check out numbers of cake pans.

Reviewed Library Board Bylaws. Voting occurred to accept changes mentioned on page 4, delineating which bills can be approved without a quorum. Motion to accept by Nancy, 2nd by Emily. Passed unanimously. Bylaws were updated.

Telephone policy reviewed. No changes made and a motion by Quentin was made to accept as written. Nancy second. Passed unanimously.

Meeting was left for open debate for Library Director review based on evaluations by all board members. The board reviewed results which were overwhelming in favor of the director. Motion to approve by Emily, Quentin 2nd. Vote passed unanimously.

Community Grant Proposal. Board considered grant funding requests to develop the courtyard surrounding the wood sculpture of Oaklee the squirrel. Another idea is to rejuvenate the little free libraries. Consideration given to reuse the same 8 libraries, use plastic to weatherproof and sides and back, door repairs, new paint, weatherproof strip. Consider looking into and ask Parks and Rec dept about cost for their all-inclusive play pad near the courthouse to consider something similar under Oaklee. More favor towards a courtyard around Oaklee than the little libraries because it is a new initiative and more competitive for the grant.

Budget. Salaries and wages are 4% instead of 3%. Everyone else gets 3% increase but better performance as determined by employee reviews goes up to 4%. Line 18 increase in

insurance budget. Introduce Kanopy to stream in 2026. Nancy made motion to approve with Matt to second. Passed unanimously.

Misc updates. Taxes to be done by Roberts and Eddy, no charge to library. The Board appreciates their donation. Tax aides library hosts to get help with their taxes, on Fridays every other week until April. Looking for volunteers next year. Evaluations on staff in process. All city emails are being changed to a .gov address. Still will receive old emails to be forwarded for a while. Indytel emails, stops on May 1st. One book Indee update = Tours set up at MHI. Tea time coming up.

Audits. Foundation needs more separation of duty, Keep track on spreadsheet for book sales. Discussion held about accepting the donation process, consideration given to having two staff signatures and donor signatures. Ultimately decided to leave for manageability.

Legislature HF521 on obscene material. Board updated on current legislation that can affect libraries and patrons.

Matt asked about crosswalk concerns.

Motion to adjourn at 7:41pm by Nancy with a second from Quentin.

Meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted by Quentin Stenger