

CARVER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting
Emergency Operations Center – Government Center, lower level
September 12, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Call to Order: *Charles Teh* called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. A quorum was met.

Board Members Present:; Charles Teh ; Jan Melchert ; Frank Foss ; Gwen Kuhrt ;

Library & County Staff Present: Jodi Edstrom (Director and interim CH Branch Manager) ; Patrick Jones (CN/VC Branch Manager) ; Paul Ericsson (NYA, WT, WAC Branch Manager) ; Elissa Bleess (Law Library) ; Kate Hull (County IT) ; Sara Renney (Public Works Communications Manager)

County & Officials: Matt Udermann, County Commissioner ; Nick Koktavy, Assistant County Administrator ;

Not attending: Alan Krueger ; Tenley Rutledge.

Guests: Approximately 80 in audience

Approval of Agenda:

- *Gwen Kuhrt / Frank Foss* moved to approve the agenda of the September 12, 2023, Library Board meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting:

- *Gwen Kuhrt / Jan Melchert* moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023, Library Board meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Team Update

- Board Chair *Charles Teh* moved this agenda item up to proceed the Public Comment portion of the meeting
- Librarian *Elissa Bleess* provided an update on services at the Law Library
 - A new computer workstation provides self-represented litigants the opportunity to file their exhibits online.
 - The Law Library continues to provide civil and family legal advice.

Public Comment / Introduction of Visitors:

- Opening comments provided by *Charles Teh* about the process for public comments at the meeting. *Charles Teh* then called on visitors one at a time for comment based on sign-up sheet that was available at the door prior to the meeting.
- *Jodi Edstrom* submitted additional documentation to the Library Board which included public input that had been received via email as of September 12, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. as well as a letter of support from the Minnesota Library Association.
- Approximately 25 visitors provided comment on the “Request for Reconsideration” that had been submitted to the Library in July, discussed at the August 8, 2023 Library Board meeting and submitted for appeal. All comments urged the Library Board to keep the book “Gender Queer” in the collection and to not act on the request for reconsideration.
- No additional public comments on other topics.

Action Items

- “Request for Reconsideration” appeal submitted regarding the book “Gender Queer”
 - *Jodi Edstrom* reviewed the “Request For Reconsideration” and appeal process and the form submission.
 - *Jodi Edstrom* reviewed the process that was followed for this specific “Request for Reconsideration” for the book “Gender Queer” and the subsequent appeal submitted to the Library Board.
 - *Charles Teh* reviewed 10 questions that each board member was asked to consider for the request for reconsideration and appeal as they prepared their reply to this appeal.
 - *Charles Teh* asked each member of the Board to summarize their response to the request for reconsideration and appeal.
 - *Gwen Kuhrt* recommends that the book remain in the collection.
 - *Jan Melchert* discussed in detail her answer to one of review questions. She recommends that the book remain in the collection.
 - *Frank Foss* reviewed his overall philosophy for libraries. He recommends that the book remain in the collection.
 - *Charles Teh* discussed his answer to the question about the audience for the book and other factors. He affirmed that it is the role of the parent to decide what books their child reads. *Charles Teh* recommends that the book remain in the collection.
 - *Charles Teh* asked for a motion. *Jan Melchert / Frank Foss* made a motion for the book “Gender Queer” to remain in the Library collection. The motion passed unanimously.
- Establish holiday and training schedule
 - Item tabled to the next meeting.
- Approval of Fines and Fees
 - Item tabled to the next meeting.

Unfinished and New Business

- None

Administrative Reports

- Budget update- Item tabled to the next meeting.
- Library Director *Jodi Edstrom*. See enclosed in Board packet.
- Division Director *Nick Koltavy*. No report.

Trustee and Commissioner Reports

- Chanhassen & Victoria
 - See enclosed in Board packet.
- Chaska
 - See enclosed in Board packet.
- Waconia, Watertown, Norwood Young America
 - See enclosed in Board packet.
- *Commissioner Udermann*. No report.
- Library Foundation. No report.

Media Packet:

- The Media Packet with copies of press materials was submitted in the Board Packet.

Other comments

- None.

Adjournment:

- *Gwen Kuhrt / Frank Foss* moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: The meeting will be held in Cologne City Hall Conference room (1211 Village Parkway) on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by *Paul Ericsson* for the Library Board Secretary