

June 21, 2023  
Eden Library Board of Trustees

Library Board President Pat Smith called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. In attendance were Jim Agle, Linda Meyer, Bettyann Neifer, Jon Wilcox, and Library Director Donna-Jo Webster. This meeting was held in person.

The minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting were read. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Jon to accept the minutes. The motion was passed.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Donna-Jo reported on statistics for the month; our circulation was better than 12 other locations. She also noted that the Audubon Library had the highest circulation in the System.

#### BILLS:

The following bills were presented for payment:

- Eden/North Collins Pennysaver ..... \$189.00
- Gui's .....\$17.98
- Henry Agle and Sons..... \$60.00 (for the planters)

A motion was made by Jon and seconded by Jim to approve payment of these bills. This motion was passed.

The Library has received a \$20 cash donation from Janet Kelly in memory of a friend. We also received a check from the County for \$30,462. This represents 90% of the County's portion of the carpet project and \$2000 in bullet aid funding from Legislator John Mills.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

We have received the official 2023 Contract for services from the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. Following the reading of a resolution to adopt said contract, the Board voted five (5) in favor of acceptance.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bettyann reported on disbursements and current balances in all accounts. She noted that we have a CD coming due soon; the interest rates have been better lately.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Jon reported on discussions he has held with Dave Rice concerning the exterior drainage issues. Dave feels that the trees closest to the building must be removed along with all the shrubbery as the roots are into the foundation of the building. The area would be re-graded to slope away and perforated pipes would be placed to drain water away from the building and into the storm drain. The Town would do much of this work with sub-contractors performing some of it. This would not be done until the end of August or the beginning of September. Once this work has been completed we could go ahead with installation of the new carpeting. It was noted that we need to check with the BECPL system regarding the time frame for using the money from the Initiative. Pat will check with Ken Stone's office.

Jon made a motion that we follow the Town's suggestions and work with them to remove all trees and landscaping from both the east and west sides of the building to address the drainage issues and their impact on the condition of the building. This was seconded by Jim. The vote was 4 ayes, 1 no.

A second motion was made by Jon and seconded by Jim that once the work has been completed we will install new landscaping on both sides of the building. This motion was passed.

Linda will meet with Turnbull Nursery to get their input on new landscaping.

Jon noted that Dave Rice said he would save some of the wood from the birch trees and use it to make some decorative items that could be used in the library or given to individuals. Pat suggested that one of these could go to Martha Muck as a memorial to Phil.

- Pat noted that she had helped at the AAUW Book Sale. They collected store shopping bags and sold them to people at the sale for 50¢. Their sale had more than 150,000 books and they had all the fiction arranged alphabetically by author.
- The lift is still not operational. The Town is looking into getting a contract to service the elevators in all Town buildings.
- Donna-Jo noted that Wayne Schacher asked that his gift be used for technology.
- The fire inspection has not been completed.
- Pat reported on the ACT meeting, which was held in May at the Central Library. Topics included Central's role in the hiring of new employees; how to find candidates for trustee positions; the process of applying for NYS Construction grants; a sustainability program being proposed by Concord trustee Bob Adler; and a presentation by Library Director John Spears on book selection and the issue of banned books.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda noted that some of our effective dates for system-wide policies do not coincide with those in the contract. She will look at all of the current policies and see which ones need to be reviewed as to the effective date.
- There was a brief discussion concerning personnel. The Board requested that they be informed when a staff member is going to be out for an extended period of time.
- A library patron approached a Board member outside of the building inquiring why the restrooms were still kept locked after most Covid restrictions had been removed. This person felt it was demeaning to have to ask for the restroom to be opened. The Board agreed with this; the public restrooms will not be kept locked starting tomorrow.

- Linda suggested that the bullet aide from Legislator Mills might be used to purchase some new furniture once we replace the carpet. The upholstered pieces are as old as the carpeting and are showing their age.
- Donna-Jo noted that Code Club is still getting used even though we no longer have a subscription. Those who have used it in the past are still able to access it. She was contacted by the company about renewing a subscription but did not feel it was worth it for the few individuals who were using it.
- Donna-Jo has been contacted by the Jeffers (Pumpkin Patch and Easter Wow) concerning a new program they are offering—Carnival Day. It includes 8 games, snow cones, cotton candy, etc. The cost would be \$700 for the program that includes everything. Since the Board had been looking for a summer event to sponsor, this seems like a good fit. The date of Tuesday, August 22 was available and Donna-Jo was told to go ahead with booking this program. We will also cook hotdogs and give them away to those attending if this is OK with the presenters.
- Donna-Jo spoke briefly about the issues some other libraries are having with “1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Auditors” who are visiting libraries and videotaping things that they do not approve of—books, other printed materials, displays. They then post these to social media to stir things up and get others to visit and complain. The staff has been given guidelines as to how to deal with these individuals. There have been instances in other libraries where staff members have had physical contact with people coming in just to stir things up. So far our library has not had any issues. We should review all our policies and make sure that we have something in place about no videotaping being allowed.

The next meeting will be held on July 12 at 5:15 p.m.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Meyer, secretary