

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library
Board of Trustees**

Call to Order: A meeting of the Alpena County Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 5:01 pm. by President Joseph Garber.

Present:

Board of Trustees: Joseph Garber, Dustin Budd, Michelle Cornish, Lauren Mantlo

Staff: Debra Greenacre, Jessica Luther, Beth DeCaire

Friends: Diane Guigar Pilgrim

Excused: Quintin Meek

Approval of Agenda: Garber added a date change request for the July meeting to the agenda.

Review and Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Budd with support from Cornish to accept the minutes from the May 15, 2024, regular meeting. The motion passed.

Financial Reports: The Financial Reports were reviewed. Garber directed it to be filed as presented subject to final audit.

Review and Approval of Bills: It was moved by Budd and supported by Cornish that both sets of bills as presented be approved. The motion passed.

Director and Leadership Team Report: The written report was reviewed. Greenacre added that the new caregiver resources webpage for navigating the library is up. Cornish thanked the library staff for responding quickly to the request.

Friends of the Library Report: Guigar Pilgrim reported that the Friends of the Library used bookstore is open every Wednesday. She shared that the Friends purchased new furniture and materials to improve the staff breakroom.

Public Comment:

Julia Silkworth, Maple Ridge, asked that books with sexual content be moved to the adult section of the library and that the library should be promoting the Bible and Christian values.

Sara Grochowski, Alpena, advocated against censoring books either through removal or reshelving.

Mitchel Dipzinski, Alpena resident, thanked the library staff and board for their work and standing against censorship.

Nycki Cuddie, Alpena resident and educator, stated that those who actively seek to ban or limit access to materials are rarely if ever on the right side of history.

Cindy Johnson, Alpena and Mayor of the City of Alpena, thanked the library staff and board for their work, emphasizing Garber's many years of service on the board. She stated that the library serves everyone in the community and should not censor materials.

Jessica Luther, Alpena resident and library staff member, requested that those who are calling for defunding the library and have been attending the board meetings to remember that the library staff are human beings and to refrain from verbally abusing and bullying them.

Paige Allia, stated that the larger consequences of moving books and/or defunding the library need to be considered.

Michael Kramer, Alpena, stated he was troubled by what he sees on the library shelves and is okay with shutting the library down if the books remain on the shelves.

Julianne Heinemann, Alpena, stated that regardless of the subject matter, the library has professionals to determine where books are placed and that parents should pay attention to what their children are reading.

Old Business:

- A. Collection Development Policy-Age Appropriate Standards:** A draft of proposed age-appropriate standards and ratings for library materials was presented by Budd. It was moved by Cornish with support from Mantlo for Greenacre to send the draft for legal review and feedback and to determine the legality of placing books in areas restricted to library patrons under 18. The motion passed.
- B. Millage Committee:** Greenacre reported that lawn signs have been ordered and will be distributed. She presented to the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and Luther will be speaking to the Democratic Party on Thursday.

New Business:

- A. Budget Adjustments:** Proposed adjustments were presented. It was moved by Budd with support from Mantlo to approve the adjustments as presented. The motion passed.
- B. Copy Machine Lease:** It was moved by Cornish with support from Mantlo to authorize Greenacre to sign a lease for 2 copy machines. The motion passed.
- C. July Meeting Date:** The July meeting will be held as scheduled.

(Building power failure 5:57 pm)

- D. Presentation: Youth Department-** Due to a power failure, the presentation was rescheduled to July.

Board Comment:

Budd asked for clarification in Robert's Rules of Order on members of the public ceding their time to one another.

Cornish praised the library activities that have been presented in the past two months including a live Minecraft activity and the author visit with Shelby Van Pelt.

Garber thanked the members of the staff and trustees who attended the commissioners' meeting that morning.

Adjournment: It was moved by Budd with support from Mantlo to adjourn the meeting. Garber declared the meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Cornish
Secretary

Jessica Luther
Recording Secretary