

Library board meeting 1/22/2025

Board members Shae Hansen, Stephanie Nixon, Paul Daybell, Lacey Dahlgren, and Erin Campbell attended. Outgoing Board members April Godderidge and Todd Durant were also present. Member Braygan Hutchison was absent due to illness.

Director Shawn Bliss was also present, as was Sue Hyer, City Council Member.

Welcome to the board from Todd Durant to new board members, gave praise for the progress the library has made over the last 6 years of his and April's tenure.

Motion to pass minutes from previous meeting 10/23/2024

Todd motioned to approve, Paul seconded, approved unanimously.

Director's report:

New board members Lacey Dahlgren and Braygan Hutchison were approved at the December 12th City Council meeting, and Paul Daybell was approved at the November 11th City Council Meeting. With four new board members in the last year, we are planning to have Rachel Lenahan come to the February 19th board meeting to do board training.

Storybook festival took place in December that was partnered with the Arts Council. They will be planning to do this annually and it was a huge success.

Summer concert series will be happening again this Summer on either Friday or Saturday for June, July, and August.

Annual report was completed and sent. Shawn provided some graphs with statistics and data. For the circulation report in 2023, the number of kids items was misreported, so as a result it looks like circulation reduced for that year, but it was corrected for 2024. Program attendance has gone up significantly in the last few years. Library visits and reference transactions have increased. Wi-fi usage has increased significantly. This is due in part to increasing the accuracy of tracking the number of users. If anyone would like a copy of the annual report it can be provided.

Facility news: The children's area floor is a problem and finding someone to fix it has been a problem. There is money in the budget to either repair or get started on repair, but it could cause problems with the fiscal year being half over, and they would prefer to not close the children's area over the summer. They are also updating signage for the library to make it clearer where the various book sections are in the library. Some updates and shelves will be added to a work area on the second floor including a book repair area.

Programming - Slow through winter but still have some events. We have transitioned from mainly children's programming a few years ago to covering all age groups in various segments in Smithfield. This includes splitting children's programs into further groups including elementary school children who weren't included before. The teen program has particularly increased in the last few years. Adult programming includes book clubs, one off programs, DIY

programs (knitting, sewing, etc.). The one segment we have not reached out to is new adults (post collegiate adults). Girls who Code has increased from two girls attending consistently to eight girls who are coming regularly. Shawn has some ideas for some standalone STEM projects he might introduce for summer programming, including a pirate radio station to broadcast within the library.

They have been weeding the children's non-fiction section. They have been slowly working on the adult non-fiction section since Shawn has started. This is still kind of the neglected part of the library. He sees people looking for books on cooking, gardening, etc.

Easiest graphic novels have been moved down to the children's area, and the adult graphic novels have been moved downstairs to the adult fiction section.

There is a subscription service for magazines, but Shawn isn't sure how much they're being used, because they do not barcode the magazines. They are tracked with a spreadsheet, but if there is enough demand for the magazines, they may go to the effort to barcode them. Based on the spreadsheet tracking they are not being utilized. They aren't being promoted, so maybe they can change the location and see if more visibility increases circulation.

Some staff attended the fall workshop in October. Discussed Yoto players which are a self-contained player that you can put a card in, and it will play an audiobook or music. The cards can be purchased with various audiobooks or, they could purchase the audio players and have them preloaded with a number of stories. The library has some Vox books that have an audio player embedded in the book which also seem to be a good option but has some problems with longer books.

Action items:

New Board Director is needed due to Todd Durant retiring from the board. Erin nominated Stephanie Nixon, Todd seconded, Stephanie was approved unanimously.

New Secretary is needed due to Marty Reeder retiring from the board. Shae nominated Braygan Hutchison, Todd seconded, Braygan was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Patron Behavior and Unattended Children policies for revision. Shawn provided examples of various policies for both patron behavior and unattended children. He would like the board to consider this information and provide feedback for expanding and clarifying on this policy. This will be added to the agenda for the February board meeting.

City Council member Sue Hyer - Wade said to remind the board of the upcoming budget meeting. Board members are always welcome to attend City Council meetings, and particularly it could be useful to have board members go to the budget meetings specifically.

April gave the motion to adjourn, approved unanimously.