

Meeting of Muehl Public Library Board
Tuesday, September 5, 2023 (day after Labor Day)
5:30 PM

Members Present: Board President-Jason Finn, Pat Krull, Darla Dorosz, Lila Zastrow , Adam Schaumberg, Library Director-Elizabeth Timmins
Regrets: Sandy Heiden, Kristen Diermeier
Guest: Michelle Van Gheem who has served as library intern this summer putting in 240 hours of work!

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Jason Finn, at 5:31.

Reports

- Minutes—August 7, 2023
 - Motion to approve the minutes by Pat K.; second by Lila Z.; motion carried.
- Director’s Report—August 2023
 - The Director’s Report was accepted as presented, no questions.
- Financial Report—August 2023
 - A bill for the Bonduel/Shawano Library in the amount of \$28 was posted today. It was added to line #5801.
 - Motion to approve the financial report by Lila Z.; second by Pat K.; motion carried.
- Activities Report—Complete through end of July 2023
 - The Activities Report was accepted as presented, no questions. Jason commented that it is better than this time last year.

Unfinished Business

- Budget, 2024
 - Pat K said there was no news from the City.
 - Elizabeth said, “no news is good news.”
- Makerspace class
 - ET will be back to class and her practicum from Sept 20 through Nov 15. Her practicum is the \$100 campaign.
 - One of ET’s professors, Peter Wardrip, visited our library on August 17, 2023, for board games and snow cones. He said he would love to visit again. It was a tremendous opportunity for Peter to see our space and our patrons—learning in the wild! No matter how much you post in a forum, it is nothing like having your instructor witness your practices and methods!
- Fall programming
 - Book group resumes this Saturday
 - The book sale is set for November
 - The Manhattan Shorts Film Festival is set for October 5, 6, 7, and 8.
 - The partial solar eclipse will be on October 14...ET taking special training to make this an educational and special morning. Two contacts locally—one with a woman whose father worked for NASA; one with a gentleman who would like to work with the library telescope!
 - Anime afternoon

- WLA conference planning, registration is open, DON'T STOP BELIEVING!
 - Registration has gone live! Elizabeth is the registration chair for the state conference.
- Completion of Michelle's internship is Wed, Sept 6, ET and Michelle will report on the experience
 - Michelle and ET both held their reports of this summer's activities/assignments/learnings (28 pages!)
 - ET said she offered mundane, tedious but necessary work for Michelle to try out. The stuff that is not so shiny but that library work entails. Ex: Take it/make it kits—took 4 hours to assemble, yikes!
 - Michelle highlighted some of her favorite activities including placing an order for super hero picture books, staging and participating in the weekly game hours (summer programming), using the Bubblemaker @ the Farmer's Market, going to the OWLS system office for a visit and taking a tour of the public library on the Menominee Reservation. She also spoke about the email she sent them after the visit. Michelle mentioned that she wrote a lot for Elizabeth including a guest column for the paper. Michelle talked about the BIG PICTURE topics that came up frequently between ET and her. Example: data protection in the news still ties back to libraries!
- Specific mention of Michelle and ET's inclusive demo at Directors' Meeting on Thurs, August 31
 - Michelle has learned at UWGB about games as literature. Phenomenal.
 - Michelle talked about VISUAL NOVELS and ET demoed Ukraine War Stories just as we did for the directors.
 - Darla marveled at all the READING INVOLVED. Yes! (Darla also loved that Michelle is attending UWGB where she was a non-traditional student back in the day!) JASON FINN ALSO ATTENDED UWGB! 😊
 - Michelle mentioned that these began in Japan in the 1980s.
 - Adam has experience with one called TELLTALE games! Hurray! <https://telltale.com/>
 - Michelle mentioned points from this follow-up email that she sent OWLS directors today:

Hello everyone,

This is a follow-up from last week concerning some of the questions and comments that were posed during discussion of visual novels on Thursday, August 31.

Twine, the software/tool used to create text-based, digital interactive stories can be found at the following website: <https://twinery.org/> I would highly recommend, as a beginner checking out the [Twine Cookbook](#) (starting with common questions) as well as the highly useful [Total Beginner's Guide to Twine 2.1](#) produced by Adam Hammond, an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto English Department.

Some of you were curious about the length of the game we sampled, *Ukraine War Stories*. Howlongtobeat.com lists the main story as running about 2 hours, with more information for those who wish to complete or see everything.

Some favorite visual novels I had mentioned during the meeting were *Butterfly Soup*, *Idol Hakkenden*, and *80 Days*. (The second requires some creative maneuvering to play, as you will not find an English-translated version for the Famicom system it was created for.)

For any additional questions or clarifications, please reach out to me at vangheem.michelle@gmail.com or Elizabeth at etimmins@muehlpubliclibrary.org.

Sincerely,

Michelle Van Gheem

Muehl Public Library Intern

New Business

- Trustee Essential #27, Trustee Orientation and Continuing Education
 - Elizabeth said this aligned with the December meeting each board member had prior to beginning their service on the board in January of whichever year.
 - No other feedback on this essential.
- Reports from Trustee Training Week, virtually.
 - Jason attended Mon, NO MORE NEUTRAL. You cannot be neutral if you are being inclusive and respecting everyone! Yes!
 - Tues, WISCONSIN LIBRARY LAW. No one attended although ET knows Kris Turner personally from the WLA conference team. He is a good person/excellent lawyer to know!
 - Wed, NURTURING YOUR LIBRARY CULTURE, Jason attended. Tied back to Monday's content! Libraries meet the needs of all readers! Jason mentioned that content was aimed at directors more so than Trustees. Good feedback! Jason mentioned that at our library ET comes with ideas and the Board reinforces, not usually the other way around.
 - Thurs, LGBTQ-Inclusive Trusteeship, Michelle and ET attended. The instructor was Ray Lockman and you may recall that ET took an online course with Ray toward the end of 2022. ET read from her CE report: Important points: People want to be heard; We all do better when we all do better; Awareness is the first step of action; Chilling effect: when a threat has worked to make us pull back; I respect your right to NOT _____.
 - Michelle explained the term TWO SPIRITS as covering countless gender identities. Michelle identifies herself as two spirits. And, yes, as Ray mentioned to us, this is strictly for Native peoples.
 - Pat asked about majority versus minority interest. ET said that we respond to the cultures within our community.
 - Fri, ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE PEOPLE, TOO, Jason attended. Invited to attend City meetings and then bring up the public library over time. ET remarked that all people are people, just be kind! And that we are small enough to know our City officials whereas a very large library system may not have that luxury.
 - Hey, thanks to Jason for attending so many webinars!! Stellar board president!!
- FMPL Casino night fundraiser, Sept 30, 2023, September will be a busy month preparing! Library as Grand Central Station ☺
 - Event will be held at St. John's, Seymour. Thanks for their generosity!
 - Selling tickets; dropping off of silent auction baskets , etc.
 - As you talk about this event in the community, this fundraiser is for FMPL coffers. (Please do not conflate with an extension fundraiser, that is NOT the goal.) FMPL has

- not been able to do a big fundraiser in years due to COVID. Casino night was in the works in early 2020 for a May, 2020 event which did not happen obviously.
- Funds will go to things like the Film Festival which is a \$600 price tag.
 - Jason asked if there will be Makerspace activities during the day like the original plan in 2020? Most excellent question! The answer is “no”.
 - Term Limits Roster
 - Gauging board openings. If Kristen stays on for a second term we will have no openings for 2024. ET emailed this question but has not heard back yet. FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TODAY!

All board business was concluded at 6:20, the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held **Monday** October 2, 2023, 5:30 PM. This will be a **tight** turnaround for financials.

*Thinking ahead to January, 2024. Board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2 since the library will be closed Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Notes respectfully submitted by Elizabeth M. Timmins (**210th** board meeting of perfect attendance!) for Sandy Heiden.