

Jefferson County Library Services Board Minutes July 6, 2022

Board members present: Linda Ager, Barbara Beaver, Art Biermeier, Anthony Gulig, Dr. Brian Henning, and Tim Semo.

Library Directors and Bridges Library System staff present: Joan Behm, Cambridge; Eric Robinson, Dwight Foster Public Library, Fort Atkinson; Melissa Anderson, Jefferson; Kelli Mountford, Karl Junginger Memorial Library, Waterloo; Stacey Lunsford, Whitewater; Gerard Saylor, Lake Mills; Jodi Kessel Szpizar, Johnson Creek; Peg Checkai, Watertown; and Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System director

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Semo at 5:00 p.m. The board welcomed new member Anthony Gulig, Jefferson County Board supervisor.

Minutes of the March 29, 2022, meeting were tabled. There was no public comment or correspondence.

Eric Robinson gave the administrator's report, Art Biermeier gave the report on the Bridges Library System, and Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System director, gave a report.

There was no old business.

Under new business, a motion was made by Art Biermeier and seconded by Tim Semo to approve the 2023 County Resource Library Budget request. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tim Semo and seconded by Art Biermeier to approve the 2023 County Library Service Operating Budget request. Motion carried. Eric Robinson will begin tracking hours spent doing Jefferson County Library Service work.

Tim Semo moved to approve the annual report on county libraries for 2021. The motion was seconded by Barbara Beaver. Motion carried.

Reports from county libraries

- Dwight Foster Public Library, Fort Atkinson – The library has hired a new adult services librarian. There are more than 900 people signed up for the summer reading program, which is much better than the last two years. Many more people have been attending programs, and 150 attended a reptile program. The library is moving away from childrens audio books and getting Wonder Books and Tonieboxes instead.
- Watertown – (Watertown hosted the board meeting, and prior to the meeting Library Director Peg Checkai gave tours of the newly expanded library.) The library has been very busy and has had attendance numbers of more than 500

per day. People are using the meeting rooms and study rooms a lot and the library is getting positive comments about the expansion.

- Whitewater – The library is starting to see five times as many people in programs as a year ago. The library has hired a fundraiser to help with the building project. The building project is viewed positively in the community.
- Lake Mills - The library will begin work on a new strategic plan in the fall. The library is looking into the cost of expansion and plans to take a building project to referendum. The summer reading program is going well. The library has the equipment for the Radio Frequency Identification project (RFID) and is ready to start.
- Jefferson - The library has installed a story walk in the conservancy. There is now WIFI access from the back of the building that reaches to Rotary Park. RFID tagging is 80 to 90 percent complete. The library has hired a new adult services librarian.
- Karl Junginger Memorial Library, Waterloo – The entire library will be re-carpeted. The summer reading program has nearly 600 people enrolled, which is almost a return to 2019 pre-covid numbers. City vehicles came for a program, and the library held a community scavenger hunt. A Kiss-A-Cow concert on the lawn raised more than \$900.
- Cambridge – Numbers are up and the library is having a good summer. Movies for seniors are being shown. Some people are coming in for air conditioning, and some are coming in when their Wi-Fi is out during storms. Library Director Joan Behm said she plans to retire in February 2023.
- Johnson Creek – The summer reading program is going well. Programs sponsored by Bridges are well attended. Police and fire departments will be at an August story time. The library has been partnering with the local historical society.

President Tim Semo adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.