

Black River Falls Public Library

Meeting of the Library Board

April 16,2024

Members present: Mitch Wester, Tracy Gilbertson, Grady Gutknecht, Melanie Floyd, Sarah Peloquin, Justin Dougherty, Gaylord Opegard, and Kristin Franks. Mandy Youngthunder was absent. Director Cara Hart was also in attendance.

Mitch called the meeting to order at 4:05.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Sarah and a second by Kristin. Carried. Vouchers were approved with a motion by Sarah and a second by Grady. Carried.

Brady Palmer attended to speak during public comments. He expressed thanks to Mandy Youngthunder for serving on the board. He then expressed concern for the safety of those at the library. He feels disruptions from patrons are too much for Cara and staff to handle. He would like to meet again to discuss it more – he has some ideas.

Library employee Bonnie Gomer has asked that her feedback email to Cara be shared as a public comment. It is attached.

Board member Sarah Peloquin is working on getting more help from DHHS concerning outbreaks from disturbed patrons on library grounds.

Director Cara Hart's report was reviewed along with reports provided by Historian Mary Woods, Youth Services Coordinator Melody Gesicki and Library Services Coordinator Vicki Fisher.

Cara reminded us that it's time for yearly cleaning of carpets, windows, and interior projects. A motion was made by Sarah with a second by Justin to approve expenses up to \$2000.00 for the cleaning. Carried.

Poppy Crowe will finish Mandy Youngthunder's board term to 2026 beginning next month. Motion to approve by Melanie with a second by Sarah. Carried.

Cara would like to close the library April 30 – May 1 during the ceiling work on the controls system. Motion to approve by Sarah with a second by Melanie. Carried.

Cara is in ongoing conversation with DHHS about what types of help library staff can offer patrons who are experiencing a mental episode at the library.

The library will be closed August 7 for yearly in-service Polaris (check in, check out) training. Motion to approve by Sarah with a second by Melanie. Carried.

Gaylord made a motion to adjourn at 5:08, seconded by Kristin. Carried.

Tracy Gilbertson

Secretary

