

Montmorency County Public Libraries
Library Board Meeting
February 14, 2022

Call to Order

President Robin Smiley called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. at the Hillman Branch of the Montmorency County Public Library.

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Mary Burek, Ellen Klein, Robin Smiley, Diane Tokarski and Pat West

Board Member Absent: (in alphabetical order): None

County Commissioner: None

Staff Members Present: Lori Haas - Director

Approval of Agenda

Mary Burek made the motion to approve the agenda as written, Ellen Klein seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Bills

Mary Burek made the motion to accept the bills as presented, Diane Tokarski seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes of Meeting

Robin Smiley made the motion accept the minutes with corrections as noted, Ellen Klein seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

There are no changes to the Covid Safety Plan. This plan will be addressed at each board meeting, and any changes will be made public.

New Business

None

Directors Report

The Montmorency County Libraries received 3 grants from the Hillman Brush Creek Mill in the amount of \$1500.00. We also received a \$500.00 donation from patron David Timm memory of Jene Barringen.

The Librarians reports:

Juli from Hillman reports Stats: 698 Total circulation, 1 Curbside pick-up, 530 Patrons signed in to choose their own materials, 1 Laptop checked out, 134 Inside computer lab users, 317 Phone calls, 128 Patrons needed copies/faxes, scans, 2 Notarizations, 6 New library cards, 24 Items cataloged and added to our collections, 2 Laminating, WiFi 177. Things have been going well here. We have been moving some books around and doing some cleaning. all of the take-home packs are going very well. They have all been going out, and we have been running out of them before the week is up. On Thursday, February 10th, Jake was here and worked on the computers. He will come back to finish what he needs to do on Monday, February 14th. Respectfully submitted.

Sheila from Atlanta reports:

Our stats for January 2022 are as follows: 691 Total Circulation, 9 Curbside pick-ups, 298 patrons signed in to choose their own materials, 0 laptops were checked out, 118 inside computer lab users, 305 phone calls, 115 patrons needed copies/faxes etc., 3 notarizations, 8 new library cards, 58 items cataloged and added to our collections, 0 items laminated. We were pleasantly surprised to see an increase in most of our numbers for the month of January. As cold as it has been we were expecting to see a decrease! The response to our programming for the month was outstanding. We had 23 patrons participate in our "Take It & Bake It" drawing and had enough goodies shared that we were able to offer cookies and desserts all month long. We offered 2 take-away activities: Balancing Birds was a science lesson for the kids, and the Pencil Drawing Kit for both adults and children were gone in the first 2 days we had them out. In place of the traditional story hour, I had story book kits that parents could check out. All of my normally participating families have taken one or more out and all were thrilled with how much the kids enjoyed them. Our collection of puzzles and games continues to grow. We had another 12 brand new puzzles and games donated. So far it is the adults that are checking them out. February is our adult reading program (The Polar Bear Club) and this year's theme is "A Blast from the Past". Check out any classic and win a bag of retro candy. We'll also be offering 2 take-away programs: An Owl Pellet Dissection Kit for the kids and a **Clay Coil Pot Lesson** for both adults and kids. In house we'll be offering a "Make your own Valentines Station" and something fun for a play on the dates for the month. (Think 'Twosday' Tuesday for 2-22-22 and look for a book with the number 2 in the title.). I have agreed to try hosting a parent education program that is being done through Wellspring Services. A counselor will meet with an area family for a 2 hour time block of training. If this is successful, it should open our services up to another segment of our population. We will be starting with 2 time slots so we can see how it will work. We're also working on a schedule of classes that I will be assigning to our librarians and their assistants. During the slow months my plan is to concentrate on staff development. The first class, How to Deal with Angry Patrons, has been well received and is already being put into practice. Thanks for all your support!

Wendy from Lewiston reports: February 2022

January 2022 stats are as follows: 513 Total Circulation, 0 Curbside pick-ups, 209 patrons signed in to choose their own materials, 0 laptops were checked out, 81 inside computer lab users, 120 phone calls, 55 patrons needed copies/faxes etc., 3 notarizations, 6 new library cards, 26 items cataloged and added to our collections, 2 items laminated. We have been working on our collection this last month. We are discarding our VHS collection and finished weeding our VA section and now have moved onto the paperbacks. We are also in the process of returning our B&T's so I am coming into a lot of extra space. With the extra space I am going to move my puzzle shelf up front and keep the games by the YA section. I could not believe how many puzzle donations we have received. The 'Take and Bake' was a great hit in January. Our patrons really enjoyed it and our big winners were Jess Berney and her daughter Ava who were cooking together for the month. We also had understanding parents with the cancelling of 'Toddler Story Hour' and are waiting for a return date. I also cancelled 'Card Making Class' on Thursday night. As per usual we are still getting great feedback on our take home projects. The 'Balancing Bird' went really well. However I am ready to get onto spring and warmer weather and the return of our snow birds. Have a great day and stay healthy. Have a great week.

Next Meeting Scheduled

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2022 at the Lewiston Branch at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment.

Mary Burek made a motion, and Diane Tokarski seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 1:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat West