



Meeting Minutes: Library Advisory Committee

Date: 1/11/2024 Wescott Library Eagan, MN

Committee Members Present: MaryJanice Alongi-District 1, Kevin Hendricks-District 2, Robin Cerio-District 3, Kari Cahn-District 4, Rien Harms-District 5, Lynette Cargill-District 6, Pat Schoenecker-District 7, Shefali Meagher and Charlie Schubert-Youth at large members.

Staff Present: Margaret Stone-Director, Jennifer Reichert Simpson-Deputy Director, Heather Stephenson-Asst. Director, Kathy Peterson-Admin support, Amanda Feist-Manager Wescott

Call to Order: Kevin called the meeting to order at 5:30. There were no public comments. The Consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Wescott Library: Amanda introduced herself to the committee and gave a detailed report and presentation on the activities at Wescott including, but not limited to Winter Reads, Book Bingo for youth and adults, sustainability events like swap meets and book sales/giveaways, teen advisory group, youth services and outreach to local senior centers. Committee members expressed their appreciation for all the good work she and the Wescott staff are doing.

Election of Officers: Robin was nominated and seconded to be the new Chair. She was unanimously approved. Lynette was nominated and seconded to be the vice chair. She was unanimously approved.

When committee members are coming to the end of their final terms, Margaret encourages them to spread the word about the vacancies on the Committee and those interested should contact their commissioners about applying. Kathy will get the roster clarified for term start and end dates.

Director's Report: Margaret welcomed Shefali as the new youth member. She reported on a violence threat that had been called in to Heritage Library recently. She said staff followed through perfectly to keep themselves and the public safe while contacting proper law enforcement. It was a "prank call" with no way of tracing it. She said that instances like this are becoming more prevalent and we should be prepared for more. She reported that the by-laws are still on hold and the Commissioners discuss who has the authority to remove a book. She encouraged staff and committee members to continue to stand strong for intellectual freedom. DCL has gone fine free and all blocked patrons have been unblocked. Hot spots will continue to be funded by the County Board but it is not a long-term solution to accessibility issues. The new strategic plan will be started in March and address issues youth and community engagement and poverty. Library received a grant for Cultural Storytimes. Kaposia in S. St. Paul will have a grand opening ceremony and invitations will be posted. Library self-service hours are becoming very popular and addressing a need in the community.

Updates from Committee Members: Charlie commented that the study rooms are very important and should not be undervalued.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Next Meeting will be March 14 at Galaxie.