MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Siouxland Libraries
Downtown Library
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call and declaration of quorum. The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM by Beddow. Members present: Jean Beddow, Lorie Hogstad, Anne Land, Joel Rosenthal, County Commissioner Cindy Heiberger and Library Director Jodi Fick. Staff present: Monique Christensen, Lucy Steiger, Alysia Boysen Guests: Korey Erickson

2. Adoption of the agenda. Motion by Rosenthal and second by Hogstad to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Motion by Hogstad and second by Land to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Review of financial and statistical reports. Statistical report has more data points than usual to give the breath of our unusual year and the effects of COVID. We are on a growth curve now with more people using the services; we’re pleased with where we are considering the pandemic. We’ve done a variety of things to have services in a safe way. Staff has done an extraordinary job adapting ways to engage and enrich the lives of community. New options like take and makes, science kits and mystery kits connect people who may not have opportunities to connect online. The recent Night Under the Stars virtual event had 68 people in attendance. The financial report is preliminary with some things still being paid yet of the 2020 budget year. Capital: collections book budget had a 225000 holdback with some released before the end of the year. We anticipate the balance will roll into 2021. Capital can be spent over the next 3 years. New materials shelves are sparse: with the holdback we cut in physical materials and left money in digital materials. The publishing world has also had challenges in printing and distribution resulting in slowdowns in receiving new items. Other Capital expenses this year were the new bookmobile and courier truck. Heiberger asked about COVID expenses. The City is tracking all COVID related expenses for reimbursement.

5. Library Director and staff reports. COVID 19 and library services: We continue safety practices and social distancing. We are evaluating current practices for quarantining returns. As current science says we are not likely to contract COVID from touch, it makes sense to reduce the quarantine to 3 days and reverse some of the impact on service levels. The city Communications department is designing new library cards. A possible renovation of the Ronning Branch is being worked on including adding a drive up window, expanding the staff area and adding three study rooms. In staffing changes, we hired a new branch manager replacing Alysia Boysen. Sharlene Lien begins Feb 8. 2021 goals: Each of our branches set goals for their locations to help with the overall Siouxland goals of a higher % of the population having library cards, increase visitors in building or virtually, increase circulation per capita.

Student Success Library Card project: Steiger shared that students come to the library without parents and are unable to get a card. We want to get cards in the hands of students. A Student Success Library Card would allow checkout of two children’s books/magazines at a time without parent signature. The cards would be distributed at the schools. If the student comes with a parent,
the parent could choose to convert it to a full access card with no restrictions. The program will be piloted at Hawthorne and Terry Redlin Elementary Schools this spring. Success measures for the pilot include: how often cards were used, how many were used, how much was checked out, how many are converted to full cards. The current plan includes waiving lost fees one time each year for any items not returned. We will have to weigh the cost of lost materials. Ultimately we want to get kids checking out books. Program will be expanded outside of Sioux Falls if successful. Steve Hildebrand with Promising Futures would like to help with tours to the library. Discussion around using an additional school that is not Title-One or a rural school. Erickson shared that the superintendent team is excited about the project and will do anything. We will start with K-5 but continue to upper grades until 16 when they can apply for a card themselves. There is some concern about students checking out items the parent doesn’t want them to have when coming to the library unsupervised. This is a change in philosophy for us. Potential good outweighs the risk. Rosenthal asked about the kids who don’t like to read. There are some but magazines will also be available and staff can usually find something to interest them.

6. Public Input. (There was no public input.)

7. Unfinished Business. Library Open Hours. Discussion on what was considered in determining the proposed hours, including hours of use for circulation, computers, meeting spaces. Staff and public were also both consulted during the process. When we reopened more hours last summer, we opened earlier at the city branches and Brandon; this has been well received. We recommend closing all locations by 8 based on low use. The benefit of restructuring hours allows us to reduce part-time staff hours and increase the part-time wage.

Motion by Rosenthal and seconded by Hogstad to approve the Library Open Hours with implementation as COVID allows.

8. New Business. Motion by Hogstad and second by Land to approve the Student Success Card pilot project including exploring adding a non-title one school to the pilot.

9. Other.

10. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 4:30 PM at the Downtown Library.

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

[Signature]
Monique Christensen
Library Staff

3-10-2021
Date Approved

[Signature]
Jodi Fick
Board Secretary