

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Dwight Foster Public Library
Jan 9, 2023**

Present: Rob Abbott, Tom Fick, Kirsten Mortimer, Julie Olver, Sara Podoll, Eric Robinson, Mike Wallace

Absent: Autumn Harden, Bruce Johnson, Rebecca Houseman LeMire, Diana Shull

Guests: Bruce Waller, Edward Jones

Call to Order & Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by Tom Fick.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December meeting were approved. (Wallace, Mortimer)

Public Input/ Communications: Great blog post that Eric will share as a link to the board.

Approval of Bills: The payments for all December bills were approved. (Mortimer, Podoll)

Director's Report of Financials and Services for December 2022:

Fines to City	\$95.73
YTD fines to City	\$1,514.53
Revenue to City:	\$427.44
YTD Revenue to City:	\$5,922.27
YTD Total Deposits to City:	\$7,436.80

Director's Report Highlights:

- Overall, strong program attendance.
- Reference questions are being tracked using software that gives us a more accurate count of the number of reference questions asked.
- Visits to the library are up - in 2022, our foot traffic was 51% higher (76815 visits) than in 2021 and 72% of our foot traffic during pre-pandemic years (2019).
- Overall, in 2022, our physical circulation (160265 items) was 4% higher, and Overdrive and Hoopla (31986 items) were 5% higher than in 2021.

Trust - (Action: discussion)

Bruce Waller of Edward Jones report on Library - Bear Market due to inflation and increasing interest rates. Investments are down 14% this year, although up since September, with the last few weeks doing better. The year ahead will be bumpy, but the second half seeing some strengthening. Stay invested and diversified to be best situated whether the market recovers quickly or we head into a recession.

Material Selection Policy – Eric R. (Action: Approve additional language to policy)

Requesting the addition of a sentence to the challenged materials section: “If a material, work, or book has been reconsidered for the collection, the Library Board will not review it again for 12 months.” Rob Abbot suggested clarifying that the 12-month clock starts from the date the decision was made by the board.

Motion approved to add additional language clarifying the timeframe for challenges after adding a phrase indicating the time when that year's review window begins. (Mortimer, Abbot)

Library foot traffic – Tom F. (Action: Discussion)

Decreased foot traffic since the pandemic. Why? Fewer middle schoolers. But no clear explanation. Hasn't affected our circulation numbers or other service numbers like programming, which stay strong. The industry is seeing this trend as well. No funding or staffing levels are affected by foot traffic numbers.

State of Wisconsin annual report - Tom F. (Action: Discussion)

No action needed - report not ready until after January 25. We will review/approve it at the February meeting.

Recruitment of new Board members - Tom F. (Action: Discussion)

Current practice of recruiting board members is largely word-of-mouth. How can we recruit a more diverse board? Eric will talk with Jefferson County Literacy Council and a library volunteer with deep connections with the Fort Hispanic population. Mike will reach out to the Rock River Community Care group. Eric will post signs within the library. Ask the City to send a press release to Fortatkinsononline.com. Rob could work with the community liaison to the Fort School District.

In April, start reaching out to these connections to work to recruit a more diverse board.

Friends of the Library (Julie Olver reporting):

Doing a Wisconsin-based author series. Doing a Friends renewal campaign. Book sales will correspond with monthly markets.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM (Podoll, Wallace)

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2023 at 9:30 AM