

Library Board Meeting Minutes
September 12th, 2023 1:00 PM
Crete Public Library UBT Room
1515 Forest Ave.

1. Open Meeting

The Library has posted a copy of the Open Meetings Act, Laws of the State of Nebraska, in the back of the meeting room. Additional copies are available to read, if anyone wishes one during this meeting, please advise. As each agenda item is considered, if there are any questions concerning the agenda item please advise. The Board may consider items listed on the agenda in random order. This meeting was posted at the Crete News.

2. Roll Call—Jan Sears, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 1:03pm. Other board members present were Jim Crouse, Jared List, and Amanda Lopez. Also present were Joy Stevenson (Library Director), Tom Ourada (City Administrator) and Carrie Wilsman (President of the Friends of the Crete Public Library). Absent: Tom King and Jared List

Jared List arrived at 1:06pm.

3. Consent Agenda—Board will consider approval for the following items. Explanation may occur for each item and the council approves and/or amends the items listed.

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Members reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 8th, 2023 meeting. Lopez motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Crouse, Lopez, and Sears voted to approve the minutes.

4. Reports—

A. Friends of the Library— Wilsman shared the following with the board:

1. 261 children are part of the imagination library with 57 having graduated out of the program.
2. The annual meeting is 5:30pm on Thursday, September 14th. Everyone is welcome.
3. The Friends helped support the Tosca Lee event with setup and tear down.
4. The Friends will help with addressing the bagworm infestation on the library grounds.
5. There will be a trustee vacancy on the Friends of the Library board.
6. The Friends are working on a flyer about the organization and estate planning.

B. City Administrator— Ourada discussed the following with the board:

1. The city had the budget work session. The library budget is not substantially different from the last one. There were some increases where relevant.
2. The taxable evaluation went up 20% and the lid restrictions only allows a 3.8% increase with allowed growth. The city levy will go down six percent. However, property taxpayers will not see a difference since the County Assessment affects the overall taxation.

3. The City is looking at options for 911 dispatch agreement. Currently, the City has a contract with Beatrice Southeast Dispatch and has recently requested renewal with them for a one-year contract while the City considers an alternative option with Saline County Dispatch. The Saline County option may be a cheaper alternative.
4. The City followed a market-based approach for salary/wage increases for other employees this year. In some cases, some employees received a sizable raise last year. So not all employees will receive large raises this year. No one will receive more than 10.5% at once. Per the Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR), the increases can be spread over a two-to-three year span. Therefore, raises exceeding 10.5% will be spread over that time period, depending on the amount of the raise. However, the police officers will receive their raise amounts all in one year based on negotiations.
5. At the time we looked in 2015, Crete has twice as many calls as the rest of the county combined. This is far fewer calls than Beatrice, but yet more calls typically than somebody like Seward.

C. Director— Stevenson discussed the following with the board:

1. The library has an average of five programs a week. The teen programs have grown in particular. The Dungeons and Dragons group has grown to capacity.
2. The Audubon prairie walk was a success.
3. Renker is continuing with the jigsaw puzzle and trivia nights.
4. Stevenson is working on next year's speaker series and Crete Reads! and the two monthly book clubs.
5. There will be a new program: NASA at my library. The Crete Public Library was one of 49 in America and was the only Nebraska library. The programming will be bilingual, and the library will receive a telescope. The library will have a solar eclipse viewing event on Saturday, October 14.
6. The Crete Reads! author Ellen Wiseman will speak virtually on Oct 22, 2023, 1pm lunch and 2pm talk at the library. The meal will be provided by Calabria's Italian restaurant. The library will start promoting and selling tickets.
7. The Library of Things (LoT) is moving ahead. The LoT refers to items that are not traditionally found in a library. The library has twenty-six items on the survey and is currently receiving feedback.
8. The library has a laptop cart that it no longer needs and will be declared surplus.
9. The library is waiting to apply for a free telescope from the Omaha astronomy club.
10. The Nebraska state poet laureate Matt Mason will speak at the library on Sunday, November 19, 2023.
11. The library is looking into the possibility of having Joel Sartore speak about his photography.
12. Stevenson spoke about the frequent shutting off of the HVAC. A discussion ensued as to what could be done to mitigate the situation.
13. There is a bagworm infestation in the library foliage. A group of volunteers will be removing bagworms on Monday.

14. Stevenson provided an update about the building projects related to removing the gravel around the library, the one-foot edge of concrete, and laying the pavers.

D. President: — King discussed the following with the board:

1. No report

5. Special Order of Business—

A. **Personnel:** NA

B. **Building and Equipment concerns:** NA

C. **Board Duties:** NA

D. **Administrative:** NA

6. Petitions-Communication- Citizen concern-NA

7. Adjournment—Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm motioned by List, seconded by Lopez, Crouse, List, Lopez, and Sears voted to approve adjournment. The next meeting will be the second Tuesday of the month: Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 12pm in the UBT Room of the library.