Kennedy Library Board Minutes, September 20, 2022

Members present: Cody Whitton, Sue Abbey, Michelle Swanson, Barb Czerniak, Kevin Honey, Kathleen McGough Johnson, and Dawn Swanson. Alicia Lindquist, Shannon Barnhart, and Steve Kimball were absent.

Board President Cody opened the meeting at 5:35pm. Minutes from the previous meeting, July 19, 2022, were approved as read, first by Sue, then by Michelle. As his first order of business, Treasurer Kevin reported that the Federal Government has increased the rate of interest return on Certificates of Deposit; he will do the research to find the best instrument for the Library to invest in. Other than the increase in the rates charged by National Grid, the expenses for the last 60-days remain about the same, keeping the Library in a strong position financially. Michelle asked about the feasibility of installing solar panels. Fundraising and grants continue to bolster the bottom line. Cody approved Kevin’s report; Sue seconded.

Dawn began her report with the numbers, 2251 (Circulation for the months of July and August), and 1644 (Attendance for July and August.) The summer reading program (July 5 – August 27) featured reading logs for readers of all ages to track their reading, contests, creative story-telling, and crafts, centered on the topics of reading for the participants, children and adults alike. The community organizations which made presentations during the program ranged from the Ormond Dairy farm, to the Master Gardeners’ group, to the YMCA, to the Messinger Woods Animal Sanctuary with the live Birds of Prey.

The Reading Club continues with consistent participation. September is National Library Card month: Dawn represented the Library at the County Fair, and at Falconer School to distribute library cards. Announcements: new telehealth equipment (laptop, oximeter, blood pressure monitor, forehead thermometer) have arrived from CCLS, as well as a computer upgrade for the visually-impaired and a tablet which can be used in the library; Allied Alarm will install the panic button at Dawn’s desk; October will see a membership drive for Friends of the Library.

Other announcements are: that the Open Meetings Law is changing; Dawn has a State meeting near Albany soon; and an Open House in conjunction with the Audubon Nature Center is being planned for October. Also, Community Bank made a contribution of $250 to the Library. As to the question of whether alcohol can be served at a Library event, the answer is that we must first secure a permit. Cody moved to approve Dawn’s report; Barb seconded.

Regarding the amount of funding to request from the Town of Poland, Cody proposed that for 2023, the Library request $37,500. Kathleen seconded. Motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2022. Current meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen McGough Johnson, Secretary