

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library  
Board of Trustees**

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Alpena County Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 4:01 p.m. by President Joseph Garber.

**Present:**

Board of Trustees: Joseph Garber, Dustin Budd, Lauren Mantlo, Quintin Meek

Staff: Debra Greenacre, Jessica Luther, Beth DeCaire, Nancy Mousseau

Friends: Lois Gibbs

Excused: Michelle Cornish

**Approval of Agenda:** Garber added two additions to the agenda: changing the board meeting time from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and closing the library early on June 3, 2024, for library staff to host Shelby Van Pelt at the Alpena High School auditorium.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Meek with support from Garber to accept the minutes from the April 17, 2024, regular meeting. The motion passed.

**Financial Reports:** The Financial Reports were reviewed and filed subject to audit.

**Review and Approval of Bills:** It was moved by Garber and supported by Meek to approve both sets of bills as presented. The motion passed.

**Director and Leadership Team Report:** The written report was reviewed. Greenacre stated the ballot language was accepted by the county clerk in preparation for the August 6, 2024 election. Donald La Barre resigned and Marlo Broad is the new Head of Special Collections. Caroline Wienkauf has more hours and has been promoted to Information Service Specialist. Christina Markowski has moved from the Head of Public Services to the Children's Librarian for children ages 1-9 while Autumn Tencate will concentrate on services for tweens and teens ages 10-18. In addition to being the Assistant Director, Jessica Luther will assume Christina Markowski's circulation supervisor responsibilities.

**Friends of the Library Report:** Gibbs reported the Friends of the Library funded new furniture for the library staff break room and elected officers on May 1, 2024, but are still looking to fill board member positions. She shared that the Friends of Library plan to participate in the Flower Festival and open the year-round used book store in June.

**Public Comment:**

Dorothy Boyk, Maple Ridge, stated that the American Library Association leadership is Marxist and is trying to groom young children. She noted ALA guidelines dictate where a book lies is the decision of the librarian. She suggested the library provide warning posters or tools for parents to assess content.

Terry, no last name given, Presque Isle, stated that the American Library Association President is a Marxist lesbian and ALA leadership may negatively influence children. She denoted *Gender Queer* and *All Boys Aren't Blue* as inappropriate. She urged the library to stop following current trends and to choose books that reflect the United States' Christian founding.

Mark Hunter, Alpena, questioned if some children are overprotected and if safe spaces should allow for

open conversations even if it makes others uncomfortable. He stated library staff should be prepared to answer questions and he noted questions directed towards the board should not have to be presented before the meeting.

Bruce Heath, Sanborn, expressed it is the job of parents to teach sex education, not librarians. He noted it would be better to shut the library down rather than expose children to inappropriate content.

Taylor Oliver, Alpena, expressed that children should not have unfettered access to inappropriate content and she suggested the library provide a labeling system.

**(Mantlo joined, 4:17 p.m.)**

Nonie Muller, Alpena resident and retired nurse, emphasized prevention as the best way to keep people healthy. She stated being exposed to information about sex too soon can be traumatizing and negatively impact people for the rest of their lives.

Traci Collins, Lachine, stated trauma may manifest itself in children as Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. She reiterated the importance of prevention.

Jen Myers, Presque Isle, inquired about the current status of her two reconsideration requests *It's Perfectly Normal* and *All Boys Aren't Blue*. She asked if questions can be directed to the board during the meeting and she asked for more clarification on how the board's policy permits them to respond to questions.

**Old Business:**

**A. Material Reconsideration Appeal:** Budd stated while he was personally against *All Boys Aren't Blue* remaining in the Teen/YA collection the book should not be moved legally based on the collection development policy and Article 7 of the Library Bill of Rights. He noted the collection development policy would undergo revisions to protect the autonomy of parents and to be more clear and concise, especially regarding age-appropriate standards.

Cornish's statement as read by Garber noted it is the responsibility of the board to represent diverse citizens and it is the right of parents to restrict materials as well as to monitor book selections. Cornish does not wish to move or eliminate the book from the collection.

Garber stated the mission of the library is to provide information. The book is not forced on anyone and should be available for people who feel the need to read the book. He shared that the board and Greenacre will work together to rewrite the collection development policy. He noted his prior experience with writing policies but cautioned all policies have gray areas.

Greenacre noted potential changes to the library's website including more access for parents to review content and showcasing new additions to the youth section.

It was moved by Mantlo not to move the book and supported by Meek.

Mantlo: Aye

Budd: Aye

Meek: Aye

Garber: Aye

The motion passed.

**B: Collection Development Policy Discussion:** Greenacre stated the collection development policy was going to be revised to increase clarity and to address some of the issues brought forward by the community. She planned to receive input for these revisions from a staff collection development committee, individual board members, and community recommendations.

**C. Millage Committee Update:** Greenacre reported the committee will be meeting on Monday, May, 20, 2024. She stated she would be scheduling times to present at community organizations and distribute brochures to provide the public with more information about the millage.

**New Business:**

**A. Presentation- Library Maker-Lab- Nancy Mousseau, Technology Specialist:** Mosseau described the Maker-Lab as a blend between art and technology incentivizing patrons to actively participate in their learning. She shared about the ongoing bi-weekly Tinker Tuesday and Maker-Lab programs. She noted a film-developing Maker Camp for tweens and teens is planned for this summer.

**B. Agenda Addition- 5:00 p.m. Meeting Time:** It was moved by Garber and supported by Mantlo to change the board meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the summer months of June, July, and August. The motion passed.

**C. Agenda Addition- Early Library Closure:** It was moved by Meek and supported by Mantlo to close the library at 6:00 p.m. on June 3, 2024, for library staff to host Shelby Van Pelt at the Alpena High School auditorium. The motion passed.

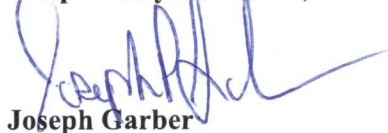
**Board Comment:** Meek recognized the audience attended the meeting because they cared about the community but he asked them to be more courteous of Mousseau and other presenters.

Budd apologized to Greenacre for the negative feelings she may have experienced due to some of the comments he made at last week's meeting.

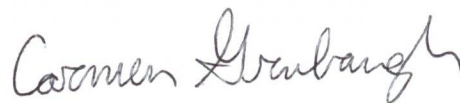
Garber hoped the collection development policy would be rewritten efficiently and judiciously. He thinks the library's future is dependent on the library remaining relevant and engaging in fruitful, respectful discussions.

**Adjournment:** Garber declared the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at the newly designated time of 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



**Joseph Garber**  
President



**Carmen Grubaugh**  
Recording Secretary