

Minutes of the David A. Howe Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 11, 2025

Trustees Present: Nic Gunning, Director, Donald Comstock, President, Madeleine Gasdik, Tim Colligan, Tom Reuning, Nancy Reuning, Treasurer, Emily Peavey, Vice-President, Nora Burdick, Anne Sobeck, Secretary

Trustees Absent: Kris Green

Call to Order: President Comstock called the February 11, 2025 meeting to order at 7:31am.

Discussion and Approval of Minutes and Financial Reports: A motion to accept the January 2025 minutes and financial reports was made by President Comstock and seconded by Trustee Colligan. The motion carried. (8,0).

Public Comment Section: none

Presentation: Geralyn Gough and Molly Cole of Asset Mark/Gem Wealth were guest speakers at our meeting. They gave a very informative presentation of the DAHL investments and held a question and answer session.

A motion to open an account to invest the donation of funds intended for a WHS scholarship with Gem Wealth/Osaic, with Board of Trustee Officers as authorized signers, was made by Trustee Colligan and seconded by Trustee Burdick. The motion carried. (8,0)

Director's Report:

A. Statistics

-Circulation

Director Gunning noted that 2024 had the highest physical circulation (45,339) since 2019. Digital circulation had an all time high of 15,136.

-Programs

Director Gunning noted that overall January events were steady. The community closet and the coffee cart were busy!

B. News from the Library

-The Annual Report is being finalized and when all the figures are in the Community Report will be started.

-The DAHL was featured in the January issue of The School Library Journal highlighting our work with the Head Start Program.

-Library staff continues to work on updating sections of the library.

-The library has begun the NexTrex Recycling Program. Ten pounds of plastic bags have been collected so far!

C. Department Reports

Youth- Sorting and updating the YA room has begun. The Rotary Club and the YMCA are partnering with the library for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Auditorium/Exhibits- The library hosted the Town Theater of Short Tract for their play presentation. A meeting took place with the Starlight Theater regarding their future use of the library. They requested a fee reduction. After discussion, a motion to approve the fee reduction for the Starlight Theater was made by Trustee T. Reuning and seconded by Trustee Burdick. The motion carried. (8,0)

Technology- There has been an increase in regular tech help and one-on-one appointments. The library is looking for options with ink cartridge and tech recycling. The 50th episode of "But Have You Tried" podcast has been recorded. Listens continue to grow!

Building/Grounds- Painting and regular maintenance continues at the library. Rick was able to replace a leaking valve in the boiler at a savings of \$600.00.

Finance- Ed Bysiek will be at our March meeting to discuss the DAHL Annual Audit.

Grants:

- Director Gunning has sent a letter of support to the Wyoming County Arts Council regarding the creation of the David A. Meow picture book.
- Kate E. submitted a grant application to the Art Council of Wyoming County requesting funds for several programs to be held at the library.
- Niki submitted an application to the Stephen T. Reidner Grant to provide memory kits to the library.
- Kate M. and Amanda submitted a grant through Dollar General for SRP funding.

Committee Reports: none

Friend's Report: The Friends reported a balance of \$37,694.66. President Mason is working on a grant through Penguin Random House to help with the SRP.

Old Business:

- An open trustee seat needs to be filled.
- It is time to shop insurance for the library.

New Business:

- Kate E. attended Library Advocacy Day.
- The Winter Reading Program was discussed.
- New digital services were discussed.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22am was made by Trustee Peavey and seconded by Trustee Colligan. The motion carried. (8,0)

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Sobeck, Secretary

