Plains Public Library Boad of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
6:00pm, March 25, 2025 @ Plains Public Library

Present: Myra Lindborg (Chair), Greg Sanders (Vice-Chair), Brandon Wilson (Tamarack Representative), Nate Stropko, Sophie Fisher.

Also present: Nikki Ericksen (Director)

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Public Comment: None

Previous Meeting's Minutes: The minutes for February 25 were reviewed. Greg moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sophie seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were reviewed. It was noted that the budget has been spent down by 65% at a time when we are 66% of the way through the year. Greg moved to accept the financial reports. Sophie seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Patron Policy: Language had been added to the patron policy about partner library book holds. If holds are not picked up within 8 days of notification, materials are packed up and sent back and a $2.00 per item fee is applied to the patron's account. This had been the practice of the library for a long time but director realized that it was not stated in the policy.

Huckleberry Contracting: Nate let the board know that there was a price difference between the amount quoted by and paid to Huckleberry Contracting by the Plains Library Foundation for the recently installed blinds. The intention of Huckleberry Contracting was to facilitate the purchase of the blinds with no profit to the company. Once the contract was approved and the payment was made, the company purchased the blinds from the agreed upon online retailer and found that they were on sale, causing there to be a roughly $900 savings. Nate wanted the board to know that the company would keep that savings per the contract as a nice benefit for them. Nate and Brandon reiterated that they each received no payment for installing the blinds. Nate wanted complete transparency by informing the board.

Strategic Planning: The May 17 strategic community planning session was discussed. Nikki said that she had secured a facilitator for the event. She said she was eager to have as much of the community represented at the meeting as possible. She said she would start gathering information before hand via survey questions to help guide the discussion. The group discussed if having it in the library would make sense since the space is limited. Nikki said she would like to have the event in the library if possible to put people in the space as the discussion is had. The capacity limit may present a problem. It was discussed that an alternative option be arranged in case the group is too large, possibly even the parking lot.

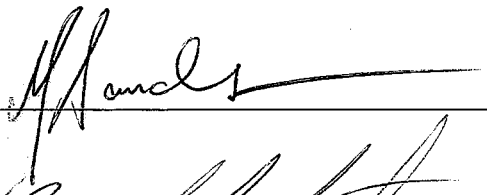
Director's Report: Discussion was had surrounding the limitations that the library building has been presenting lately. Per the director's report, with new growth in town and renewed interest in library services, the building's shortcomings had started to really show. Different activities in the library including programming, computer use, and teens and families in the children's area are disrupting

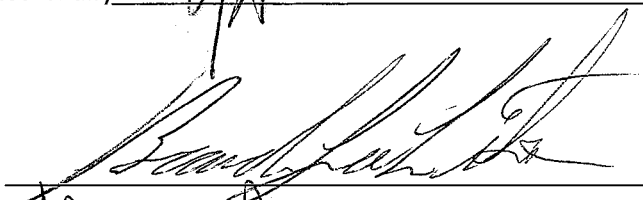
students and business people needing a quiet place to study, read, and work. Even the staff find it difficult to focus on work because of the noise level in the library. While the need for programming and for families to bring their children to read is great, so is the need for people to have a quiet place to work. The layout of the building with one great common room is not conducive to these happening simultaneously. Nikki stated that this would be a main topic at the community meeting.

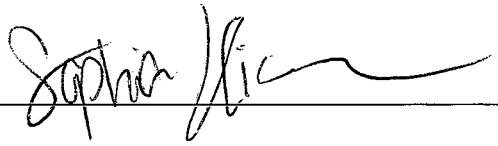
Possible solutions brought up were being open more hours, offering ear plugs or noise cancelling headphones, using sound absorbing panels or a sound absorbing cubicle of some kind.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Meeting was scheduled for April 29th at 6:00pm at the library.

Myra Londborg (Chair)

Greg Sanders (Vice-Chair) 

Brandon Wilson 

Nate Stropko

Sophie Fisher