

**Bridgman Public Library  
Board Minutes  
July 25, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 9:03 A.M. by Bogue

**Roll Call:**

- **Present:** Bogue, Valauskas, Collins, Fuller, Janoskey, Noll, Wilk
- **Excused:** Kole, Worcester

**Staff:** Skinner, Abele

**Agenda Revisions:** None

**Guests:** J. Bernstein - Friends of the Library, President  
Z. Murray – League of Women Voters  
R. Brown – Decker Insurance Agency

**Public Comments:** None

**Friends of the Library (FoBPL):** Bernstein reported that the Friends have purchased items worth nearly \$8,000 for the library in the last year, including multiple shelving units and a popcorn machine. The Friends membership drive took place in June and memberships are down with a total of 63 members. Reminders will be sent to previous members to renew their membership.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Personnel and Policy Committee:**
  - Board members were given a job evaluation form that they need to complete for Skinner. Completed forms should be returned at the Circulation Desk by August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Facilities Committee:**
  - The library parking lots were repaired on July 13<sup>th</sup> and Arnt Asphalt is scheduled to come back on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> to complete the sealing. Parking lots will be blocked off and both library patrons and the Bridgman Beach Bus will be notified of lot closures.
- **Finance Committee:**
  - Bogue and Kole met to discuss the transition to Decker Insurance Agency.

**Treasurer Report:** Reviewed reports.

**Director's Report:** Skinner highlighted that the library is working on a partnership with the Bridgman Boys & Girls Club, which offers an after-school program for elementary and middle school students. This partnership will open the door to interact with these students and to offer opportunities for them to make regular use of the library and its programs.

**Intellectual Freedom:** *Intellectual freedom is the right of library users to read, seek information, and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment.* No specific examples were given this month. Guest Z. Murray did ask about following up with State Representative Joey Andrews to stay abreast of Michigan's progress in implementing a law that is similar to the Illinois Right to Read Act. Everyone agreed this was a good idea and Skinner said she would reach out to him. Collins volunteered to write a thank you to Mr. Andrews for coming to the library in June and will present him with an offer to come again.

**Approval of Budget Hearing Minutes:** Motion made by Collins to approve the June 2023 Budget Hearing Minutes as written. Motion seconded by Valauskas. Motion carried.

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by Janoskey to approve the June 2023 Board Meeting Minutes as written. Motion seconded by Valauskas. Motion carried.

**Discussion Items:**

- **Decker Insurance Quote:** R. Brown from Decker Insurance Agency gave a brief overview of their insurance programs and how they differ from others in the industry. Decker's plans are designed specifically for public entities and offer "occurrence-based" coverage instead of the "claims-made" coverage that the majority of commercial policies offer. Decker's plans also include benefits such as access to dividends and risk reduction grants.

**Action Items:**

- **Approve Bills:** Motion made by Wilk to approve payment of June 2023 bills totaling \$21,763.61. Motion seconded by Valauskas. Motion carried.
- **Approve replacing Westfield Insurance with Decker Insurance Agency:** Motion made by Valauskas to approve replacing Westfield Insurance with Decker Insurance Agency. Motion seconded by Collins. Motion carried.

**Communications and Correspondence:** Z. Murray stated that the League of Women Voters will have a meeting at Lincoln Township Library on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm about microplastics in the Great Lakes and encouraged everyone to attend.

**Regular Meeting adjourned:** 9:38 A.M.

**Next meeting:** August 22, 2023, 9:00 A.M. at the library.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Sarah Skinner, Director

Approved by the Secretary:



Date: 8-22-23