

**Carnegie-Stout Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library (C-SPL) met in the Lacy Board Room at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

Present: President Victor Lieberman, Secretary Andrew Bland, Trustee Robert Armstrong, Trustee Christy Monk, Trustee Pam Mullin, Library Director Nick Rossman, and Administrative Assistant Denette Kellogg.

Excused: Vice President A. Alanda Gregory and Trustee Greg Gorton

1. President Lieberman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

*"Moved to adopt the meeting agenda of June 27, 2024."*

Motion: Mullin  
Second: Armstrong  
Vote: Aye – 5; Nay – 0

2. Approval of Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024."

*"Moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024."*

Motion: Armstrong  
Second: Monk  
Vote: Aye – 5; Nay – 0

3. Board President's Report:

A. The Board reviewed the Communication with the Dubuque City Council for May 2024.

B. Board Recognition of Outgoing Trustee Robert Armstrong – The Board provided a framed Grant Wood *Appraisal* in recognition and appreciation to Trustee Armstrong for his service to the Board and the Community since 2016.

*"Moved to receive and file the Communication with the Dubuque City Council from May 2024 and Board Recognition of Outgoing Trustee Robert Armstrong."*

Motion: Mullin  
Second: Bland  
Vote: Aye – 5; Nay – 0

4. Motion to Receive and File Informational Items:

A. Library Director's Report Summary and Update:

- 1) Library Financial Report Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 – Rossman reported that the end of May completes 91% of the fiscal year with 88% of our budgeted funds spent. Gift Fund Trust reports provided by the City Finance Department for March and April are included in your packet.

Revenue collected is at 102% of budgeted funds.

- 2) Library Use – Rossman reported circulation numbers for May were up 3% over May 2023, visitor count was up 17%, and an 30% increase in computer and Wi-Fi usage.

Patrons used curbside for 66 visits in May.

Rossman reported there were 2,428 Hoopla downloads in May. Included for review was the last three months usage comparison chart that includes cost per collection for review. (Hoopla is a web and mobile library media-streaming platform for audio books, comics, e-books, movies, music, and TV.)

- 3) Library Marketing Report – Rossman reported in the month of May, the database Transparent Language was promoted. May had 264 uses, up from 10 uses in April and 7 uses in March.
- 4) Library Programs, Partnerships, and Grants Report - Rossman provided the following report:

The library staffed a booth at the June 1 Dubuque Farmer's Market. Unfortunately, the rain kept away a large crowd, but the citizens that attended and visited the library booth were enthusiastic about library services.

The library also staffed a community booth at the City's Pride fest on June 1. As the weather cleared, the crowd increased for the family friendly event. Several hundred residents painted wooden hearts and visited with library staff.

A large crowd attended the ribbon cutting of Gail Chavenelle's sculpture *Citizens*. Special thanks to Mayor Pro Tern Ric Jones and Board Vice President Alanda Gregory for speaking during the event. A reception for the ribbon cutting and the Art @ your library artist reception was also well attended and several pieces sold. Estimated attendance for the two events was approximately 250.

There was a great turnout for the Volunteer Appreciation lunch at the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

## Martin Johnson Heade Painting –

For nearly 24 hours, there was a formal bid for the library-owned painting by Martin Johnson Heade. The potential buyer originally offered \$20,000 for the piece, but within 24 hours had rescinded the offer. The consigner, James Maroney, currently in possession of the piece, has suggested that due to the stifled market for American, Victorian Still oil paintings, that perhaps the painting should be returned to the library or offered to an auction house.

Former Board of Trustee member Paula Connors also remembers that there may have been some sort of agreement between the Board of Trustees and the City of Dubuque regarding the eventual sale of the piece. Library staff will continue to investigate old minutes from the Board of Trustees and plan to have further direction for the Library Board at the July 2024 meeting. Rossman provided a communication between Mr. Maroney and Library Director, Nick Rossman for the Board's review.

- 5) Personnel Update – Rossman provided information on the Part-time Marketing Coordinator position renewal. This annual contracted position has been approved by the Board annually to be funded from the Mutschler Trust since 2019, and is now due. Attempts to move this position into the City's general fund have not been successful. Rossman is requesting the Board's consideration to continue an annual contract to be funded from the Mutschler Trust through June 2025. The expected expense will be \$45,720.
- 6) Grant Wood *Appraisal* Image Use Request - An Italian book publisher has reached out to the Dubuque Museum of Art to inquire about using the image of Grant Wood's *Appraisal* for the cover of an Italian printing of *The Road Through the Wall* by Shirley Jackson. *The Road Through the Wall* was published in 1948. The publishing company has reached out to the SIAE, the Italian equivalent of the Artists Rights Society, and based on Italian law, they believe that since Grant Wood died in 1942, his work is in the public domain. Approximately 8,000 copies are planned to be printed.

The publisher is seeking a high-resolution scan of the painting for the cover, which the Dubuque Museum of Art has, and would send them, should the Board of Trustees approve of the use. They would also like an official caption and credit. Stacy Peterson, Curatorial Director for the Dubuque Museum of Art send the following caption and credit that would be printed:

Grant Wood (America, 1891-1942), *Appraisal*, 1931, oil on composition board, 35.125x41 inches, Dubuque Museum of Art, on long-term loan from Carnegie-Stout Public Library, acquired through the Lull Art Fund, copyright Figge Art Museum, successors to the Estate of Nan Wood Graham/Licensed by ARS, New York, NY.

- 7) Department Updates – Rossman provided highlights of the past month for Adult, Circulation, Information Technology and Youth Services.

B. Comment Cards – No comment cards were received for review.

*“Moved to receive and file the informational update from the Library Director including the Library Operational Expenditures, Revenue and Budget Financial Reports; and, Library Use Report, Marketing Report, Library Programs, Partnerships, and Grants Report; and, Personnel Update, Grant Wood Appraisal Image Use Request, and Library Department Updates.”*

Motion: Mullin  
Second: Bland  
Vote: Aye – 5; Nay – 0

5. Action Items (Action):

- A. Library Expenditures FY-24: Operating Expenditures May, Period 11 and Gift Trust Expenditures, Period 9 and Period 10 – The Board reviewed the detailed expenditures reports.

*“Moved to approve the library expenditures for FY-24 May, Period 11 and Gift Trust Expenditures, Period 9 and 10.”*

Motion: Mullin  
Second: Gregory  
Vote: Aye – 5; Nay – 0

- B. Part-time Marketing Coordinator Contract Renewal – The Board reviewed the contract renewal through June 2025 for the part-time Marketing Coordinator with an expected expense of \$45,730. The Board discussed the purpose of this fund and the need for this position to be funded by the City’s general fund. The Board is planning for library vacancies to fund a new position like this in the future.

*“Moved to approve part-time Marketing Coordinator contract renewal for one annual term only through June 2025, funded by the Library’s Mutschler Trust with an expected expense of \$45,730.”*

Motion: Monk  
Second: Mullin  
Vote: Aye – 4; Nay – 1 (Bland)

- C. Grant Wood Appraisal Image Use Request – The Board reviewed the request from an Italian book publisher has reached out to the Dubuque Museum of Art to

inquire about using the image of Grant Wood's *Appraisal* for the cover of an Italian printing of *The Road Through the Wall* by Shirley Jackson. *The Road Through the Wall* was published in 1948. They are seeking a high-resolution scan of the painting for the cover, which the Dubuque Museum of Art has, and would send them, should the Board of Trustees approve of the use.

*"Moved to approve use of the image of Grant Wood's Appraisal to be used in the Italian printing of The Road Through the Wall by Shirley Jackson; charging the Library Director with verifying that the copy right language is reviewed so that it is contingent on the library's ownership language and responsibility."*

Motion: Bland  
Second: Mullin  
Vote: Aye – 5; Nay – 0

6. Library Board Adjournment – The Board adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

*"Motion to adjourn."*

Motion: Monk  
Second: Bland  
Vote: Aye – 5; Nay – 0



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Andrew Bland, MD, Board Secretary



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Date