

**Leach Public Library**  
**January 23, 2025**

Judy Oren, Library Board President, called the meeting to order at 3:56 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Judy Oren, Jeena Kompelien, Simone Sandberg, Kelly McNary, and Deb Loberg

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Melissa Bakken, Leach Public Library Director

Conflict of Interest: None

Additions to the Agenda: Newspaper Subscription (See New Business)

A motion to accept the December, 2024 minutes was made by Mr. McNary and seconded by Ms. Sandberg. The motion passed unanimously.

**1. Friends of the Library** – The next FOTL Meeting will be on February 19, 2025 at 10:00 am.

**2. Physical Plant** – The ceiling fan dimmer switch was replaced, however the west fan stopped working. Mueller Electric replaced both 40 year-old ceiling fans. The handrail on the lower steps was reinforced. The hole will be filled and another bracket will be added.

**3. Library Operations** – The Monthly and Expenditure Reports were reviewed. Parts of the Expenditure reports were not available at the time of the meeting. Library attendance remains good. The Library received donations from the Weitzel and Schmeichel Estates. The Waste Management bill for recycling old books was \$81.90. There were no unusual expenditures. The “Booked Solid Reading Program” has had a good response. Patrons are asked to read one book per month in the suggested categories. Prizes will be distributed at the end of the program.

**4. Old Business** – Saturday hours have changed to 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in order to accommodate staff availability. These new hours appear to working fine. The technology late fines have been adjusted from \$15.00 per day with no grace day to \$5.00 per day with one grace day. The VA social worker visited the Library on January 6. She felt that the meeting room was a welcoming space for VA Vets.

**5. New Business -**

- The North Dakota State Library (NDSL) and the North Dakota Library Coordination Council (NDLCC) are offering a Winter Vision Grant. The grant writers must address one of the NDSL strategic plan goals. The total funding of the grant is \$8000 for all entrants. Applications must be completed by February 15, 2025. The grants will be distributed and utilized between March 1 – May 31. Ms. Bakken and Ms. Kercher will consider ideas.
- The Public Library Survey Documents are being prepared.
- Ms. Bakken showed the Board examples of projects made by the Glowforge. The Glowforge will be available for library patrons on Tuesdays and Thursdays when there is staff to supervise its use.
- The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan. It has been approved and dated.
- Ms. Bakken reviewed some of the ND Legislature proposed bills that may affect library operations. Ms. Bakken will continue to monitor.
- Ms. Bakken received the Bismarck Tribune bill. The price of the daily paper has increased from \$840 to \$1050 annually. The Board had a discussion about the relevance of ordering various newspapers across the state. It was discussed that the Fergus Falls Daily Journal was not utilized often

enough to warrant reordering. The Grand Forks Herald is very much like the Fargo Forum. This subscription was just paid but likely will be discontinued next year. The Bismarck Tribune has thorough coverage of the ND Legislature. Ms. Bakken will look into obtaining a subscription for the Bismarck Tribune for Sundays due the high cost.

- There will be a change to the February Leach Public Library meeting from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bakken will be gone on vacation on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Oren adjourned the meeting at 4:48 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2025 at 4:00 pm.