



**MINUTES OF THE LA GRANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 16, 2018**

- PRESENT:** Laurie Braun, Joyce Hagen-McIntosh, Tom Krueger, Angie Larson, Becky Spratford
- ABSENT:** Bridgette O'Connor, John Reardon
- STAFF:** Rebecca Bartlett, Stephen Bero, Rachael Dabkey, Debra Darwine, Maria Dike, Madeline Deneen, Leslie Hartoonian, Chuck Johnson, Arcadia McCauley, Joyce Slabich, Ken Vesperman
- VISITORS:** None
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Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Staff Service Awards: Laurie Braun and Stephen Bero presented service awards to the following staff members:

Rachael Dabkey, 5 Years

Rachael started with us in Children's as a part-time Associate, while also working part-time at the Matteson Public Library. Her boss at Matteson said she was willing to share Rachael, as long as we didn't steal her. Whoops! When Rachael finished her library science degree, we were thrilled to be able to offer her the full-time Youth Services Librarian position. She strengthened our relationships with schools and daycares and streamlined processes. She also worked hard to weed materials, resulting in a juvenile collection that has high active use statistics every year. Last January, Vicki Rakowski left as department manager, and Rachael was the strongest candidate to replace her. She has adapted to her new role capably, bringing energy and vision to the department and in particular to the renovation process. We look forward to seeing the department grow and thrive under her leadership.

Maria Dike, 5 Years

Maria has been with the library for 5 years and has become a very important part of the Patron Services team. As a local resident Maria knows many of our patrons on a personal level from her involved work with the local schools PTO. Maria's contributions to the department go above and beyond! This past year Maria has become a voter registrar for the library and actively assists with this on her own time in nearby communities. This year Maria arranged a National Voter Day Registration at the library, this was our first time actually promoting this service. It is a great service to our community. Maria is also a lead person on our meeting room bookings and knows the fine art of making Communico software work! For one of our In Service Days at the library Maria worked with Jeannie and some fellow staff members to present a Design Thinking Presentation for the Staff.

This included extra training with the team to learn this new way of design thinking. As part of the strategic planning efforts this year, Maria has been working with our Engagement Team to find ways to connect and serve our community further. Hard working, reliable and a great team member is how Maria is thought of in the department. If you want to discuss movies, fine food and restaurants she is the “go to girl” . Many staff members will say her baking contributions are exceptional and deeply appreciated. A day Maria bakes is a day everyone has a little spring in their step!

Lisa Sharkey, 5 Years

Lisa was hired as our Young Adult Librarian in May, 2012. She is the embodiment of the saying, “it’s the quiet ones you have to watch out for.” Behind her laid-back, serene exterior are tons of great ideas and a lot of energy waiting to escape! Lisa has built a devoted following of teens who trust her reading suggestions and love the innovative programs she creates for them, like Anime Night (not to mention her legendary annual Anime Fest), Teen Writers’ Studio, and the new LGBTQ group. She even makes studying for finals fun! Lisa works with teen volunteers, is a valuable member of the Spaces goal team, carries her enthusiasm beyond our walls by speaking with classrooms of students at area schools to promote our resources, and assists Debbie in running the Adult and Teen Services department. We look forward to the next new ideas she will no doubt bring to our library!

Joyce Slabich, 10 Years

Upon entering the Library, you will find Joyce chatting with patrons and young children, hers is a face many know from here long years of service at the library. Joyce is an avid lover of British Mysteries shows, Honey, Tea, The Beatles, and Puppies. Joyce just recently survived the adoption of 3 Bichon Poodle puppies named: Prudence, Jack and Oliver! Before joining us Joyce worked at the Indian Prairie Library and for Barnes and Noble as a barista, we feel very lucky to have her on our team here and on the front lines serving the community. In addition to exceptional service, Joyce is extremely detailed in her work and a wonderful and kind team player who will go out of her way to help. Whether it’s covering a shift for a co-worker, a patron who needs coffee re-warmed in the microwave or a snack from the machine (before it was available for public use), Joyce will do whatever she can to make someone’s day. Thank you for all your contributions to the Member Services Department it wouldn’t be the same without you and your cheerful disposition. Congratulations on your 10 years of service and we look forward to many more!

Ken Vesperman, 10 Years

Before coming to the Library, Ken Vesperman had retired from the elevator business. He says his wife saw our job ad in the paper and thought it would be a good way to get him out of the house! Ken has been here since the building opened and is invaluable in keeping our many mechanical and electrical systems in working order. Ken arranges regular preventive maintenance, required annual inspections, and necessary repairs, coordinating with a variety of vendors, contractors, and subcontractors. Ken is also on call for emergencies, and never hesitates to come in on off hours, even to fix the air conditioning on a hot summer day during his vacation! Staff appreciate his calm, laid-back demeanor; nothing phases Ken. We’re grateful he’s always here when we need him.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Deneen
Bookkeeper

Joyce Hagen-McIntosh
Board Secretary