

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

DATE: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015**

TIME: **4:15 p.m.**

PLACE: **CLOQUET PUBLIC LIBRARY**

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Cloquet Public Library contributes to a democratic and engaged community by providing a welcoming space, stimulating imagination, and supporting children's literacy.

Agenda

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- III. APPROVAL OF BILLS
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- V. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- Joint meeting with the City Council
- VI. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

361 ebooks and 217 downloadable audiobooks were checked out by Cloquet patrons in December. The library checked out 8,951 items in December and public computers were accessed through Cybrarian 1,287 times. Ancestry Library Edition was searched 2,213 times with 2,027 images and 506 text downloaded in December. Newsbank was accessed 15 times. Our web page had 3,580 sessions according to Google Analytics.

We have been awarded a Library Services and Technology Grant for the amount of \$3,437.32. It will be a joint project with the Area Learning Center. Mark and Lisbeth will be developing a program with select students at the ALC that incorporates a study of river ecology and art.

Minnesota Energy Resources awarded us a grant for \$5,000 toward planning fees for an addition to the library. It is their intent that this be a matching grant.

I was able to negotiate a deal with EBSCO My Heritage for a subscription to their genealogy database. A library card is needed to access it from our genealogy page.

We have started out the year with some building and grounds problems. We will need a new fire door to the boiler room and the motor is wearing out on the exterior sliding doors.

Upcoming programs:

Using the Library's Catalog - Mon, January 26, 6 pm – 8 pm

FUN!!damentals of Photography - Sat, February 7, 10 am – 1 pm

Library Reading Club - "Man's Search for Meaning" by Viktor Frankl - Tue, February 17, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Creating, Saving, and Printing a Document - Mon, February 23, 6 pm – 8 pm

The Library will be closed on and February 16 for Presidents' Day.

I will be taking some vacation time Jan. 23 and Feb. 12-14 and attending a COMPASS meeting on Feb.25.

320 14th Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720

January 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cloquet Public Library in Cloquet, Minnesota.

We have recently become aware of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's enforcement action against the Duluth Seed Library. From information on the Seed Library website, we have learned that the Seed Library is in violation of state law as it relates to the sale of seed (New Minnesota Seed Law Minnesota Statutes, Sections 21.80-21.92).

The Seed Law Section 21.81 defines "sell" to include selling or transferring ownership; offering and exposing for sale, exchange, distribution, giving away, and transportation in or into this state; and having in possession with intent to sell, exchange, distribute, give away, or transport in or into this state.

As we understand it, the intended purpose of this law is to protect consumers who purchase inadequately or illegally labeled seed, and to promote fair competition. Yet compliance with the Minnesota Seed Law, as currently written, could result in the closure of the Duluth Seed Library and prevent farmers, gardeners, other seed libraries, schools and community organizations from engaging in interpersonal seed sharing—voluntary non-commercial activities.

Minnesota libraries were founded on the principle that the free exchange of knowledge and diverse ideas, without registration or regulation, is foundational to a healthy democracy. Seeds, like books, contain within them a record of the past and the wisdom of previous generations. We believe that, as such, seeds—like books—should be valued, preserved, and freely shared among the community.

We further believe that, though well intentioned, the Seed Law negatively impacts the future health of Minnesota by equating commercial and non-commercial seed activities. We are writing to share our support for changes to the Seed Law, such that the Law distinguishes between the sale and sharing of seeds, and supports the long legacy of unregulated interpersonal saving and sharing of seeds.

Sincerely,

**Cathy Rikkola, President
Cloquet Public Library Board of Directors**

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