

**ESTHERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

*This meeting was held both in person at the EPL and online via Zoom.  
The link to the meeting was offered to the public on the agenda,  
which was posted on our front door, bulletin board, and on our website.*

The Estherville Public Library Board met in special session at 5:31 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. President Lili Jensen called the meeting to order (Zoom). Other board members present were Linda Wiegman (Zoom), Kathy Knudson (Zoom), Matt Strom (Zoom), Stephanie Franzen Nelson (Zoom), Alan Morphew (Zoom), Joe Gregori (Zoom), and Mark Gruwell (Zoom). Also present was EPL Director Tena Sunde (in person).

**AGENDA:** Mark Gruwell made a motion for approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathy Knudson. No further discussion.

Roll Call Vote (yes or no):

Lili\_Y\_ Kathy\_Y\_ Linda\_Y\_ Matt\_Y\_ Molly\_\_\_ Stephanie\_Y\_ Alan\_Y\_\_\_ Joe\_Y\_ Mark\_Y\_\_

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Covid-19 Considerations
  - a. Mask requirement

Sunde reported an increasing number of patrons ignoring the mask requirement (currently 7-30% daily). She's taken a survey of Iowa libraries and with 173 responses: 10% require masks for staff and patrons, 13% require them for staff and recommend them for patrons, 27% recommend them for staff and patrons, and the majority at 51% take a hands-off approach and offer no guidance either way. Staff at the EPL recommend moving from "required" to "recommended" for two reasons: enforceability and public relations.

Franzen Nelson made a motion that signage be changed from masks "required" to "recommended," effective immediately, which Joe Gregori seconded.

Board discussion:

- Morphew questioned moving beyond the board's former standard of 11% positivity by considering removing the requirement when we are listed at 18.99%. He had seen that we have 45 positive tests and 2 deaths recently. [The CDC site shows 20 positive cases.]
- Franzen Nelson reported negative comments about the library's mask requirement that she has heard at work (Stalls Farm & Home).

- Strom stated concern for staff dealing with an unenforceable requirement.
- Knudson stated that she felt a change to masks “recommended” would be a more positive approach for library patrons.
- Jensen stated that she acknowledges that this is not over, but that it is a different situation now because there are vaccines, etc.
- Sunde interjected that staff would continue to advocate for mask wearing and continue sanitizing procedures, etc. to maintain a safe environment. Nothing would change except the wording on the sign.
- Wiegman stated that she prefers “recommended.”
- Gruwell prefers “recommended” as an easier option (no enforcement).
- Gregori would go a step further back than “recommended,” but was agreeable to it.

Jensen called for a roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote (yes or no):

Lili Y Kathy Y Linda Y Matt Y Molly     Stephanie Y Alan N Joe Y Mark Y

The motion carried with the majority voting aye.

b. Availability of games and activity items:

Sunde shared that staff would like to reinstated games and activity items in the Children’s Department. Not all items can be sanitized easily, but some can be quarantined between users. We’ve had newspapers, magazines, and Tinker Tuesday items available for several months, and these are also items that multiple people touch throughout the day.

Jensen shared that studies posted to the American Library Association site have shown that surfaces are not as great a concern for transmission as originally thought.

Morphew made a motion to wait to consider this until two weeks after school lets out when numbers would be expected to go down. This motion died for lack of a second.

A suggestion was made to bundle crayons, etc. for individual use and then quarantine them. Sunde agreed this was easily done, and that games could easily be quarantined and swapped out after use.

Strom stated greater concern over groups of children crowding together face-to-face at an activity table more so than materials being shared.

Knudson made a motion to make materials available which can be individually packaged and quarantined or sanitized between users. Wiegman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote (yes or no):

Lili Y Kathy Y Linda Y Matt Y Molly     Stephanie Y Alan Y Joe Y Mark Y

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

**UPCOMING BUSINESS:** Covid-19 Related Considerations, as needed. Consider equipment for auction.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Joe Gregori made a motion to adjourn at 6:03 PM, which Kathy Knudson seconded. No further discussion.

Roll Call Vote (yes or no):

Lili Y Kathy Y Linda Y Matt Y Molly     Stephanie Y Alan Y Joe Y Mark Y

**Next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 5:30 PM via Zoom or in-person.**

**Respectfully submitted, Linda Wiegman, Co-Secretary**