

**Carbondale Public Library Emergency Policy Committee. Wednesday, February 23, 2022. 1:15 p.m.**

Online meeting. A link was shared for public attendance.

## MINUTES

### **Statement prior to start of the meeting.**

The Committee Chair determines that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the statewide COVID-19 disaster. This meeting is being recorded and the recording will be posted online.

### **Call to order.**

1:17 p.m.

### **Roll call.**

Introductions, audience and visitors. Visitors are asked to introduce themselves at this time and present any issues they wish to discuss. Visitors wishing to address specific agenda items will be granted two to five minutes at the discretion of the President, not to exceed a total of twenty minutes. The Library Board may cut short any comments that are irrelevant, repetitious, or disruptive. (Id. at 1425-26).

**Trustee committee members present:** Don Prosser, Board President and Committee Chair; Susan Tulis, Board Vice President; Barbara Levine, Board Treasurer

**Staff committee members present:** Diana Brawley Sussman, Library Director; Lynette Miller, Circulation Manager; Jennifer Robertson, Adult Program Librarian

**Committee members absent:** None.

**Visitors present:** None.

### **Policies and procedures for various scenarios.**

1. Discussion and decisions regarding service provision in light of changes in Illinois COVID-19 mitigation procedures.

The committee discussed changes to the statewide mask mandate. Masks will be recommended, rather than required in public as of February 28, 2022. Locally, elementary school district 95 has shifted from required to recommended masking. The City Council did not vote on this at yesterday's council meeting, but did discuss it, and it seemed that the council may be leaning toward no longer having a city-wide mandate, but possibly continuing to require masks at city hall. Our committee is not certain whether the city-wide ordinance is still in effect, or may have expired. We do not wish to ease mask requirements in conflict with the ordinance, so we will await confirmation on that issue prior to making a change.

The committee weighed the expressed wishes of staff members, which were mixed. Staff members want to maintain safety, but at the same time they recognize that it will become increasingly difficult to convince patrons to comply with masking requirements. Those encounters are already frequent and sometimes disturbingly hostile. The committee discussed accommodations that could be made to assure the safety of staff members with health complications of their own, or within their households.

The following procedures were decided upon by consensus: As of February 28 (if the city-wide mask mandate is lifted):

- Library staff, board members, and volunteers will still be required to wear masks when visible to the public. Masks can only be removed when staff are alone (or significantly socially distanced) in non-public spaces.

- Masks will be strongly recommended, though not required, for members of the public, with the following exceptions:

- When a patron needs direct assistance from a staff member where there will be no plastic barrier, the staff member has a right to require the patron to wear a mask throughout the course of that interaction. If the patron refuses to wear a mask, the staff member may refer the patron to another available staff person who is willing to engage in that interaction if such a staff member is available. If no such staff member is available, then the requested close-contact service will not be provided to the unmasked patron.

- A patron who is coughing or sneezing can be required to wear a mask.

- Patrons will no longer be required to sign in.

- Prepackaged non-communal food will be allowed at programs on an as-needed basis.

**Adjournment.**

1:53 p.m.