

*****ATTACHMENTS*****

**REVISED Minutes
Mead Public Library
Board of Trustees
September 26, 2019**

A meeting of the Mead Public Library (MPL) Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, September 26, 2019 in The Loft. The following Board of Trustees members were present: Board President Maeve Quinn, Meg Albrinck, Chris Campe, Alderperson Mary Lynne Donohue, Marcos Guevara, Nancy Mannchen, Vice-President Kathie Norman, Sherry Speth and Kyle Whelton. Staff members present: Director Garrett Erickson, Business Manager Debbie DeAmico, Support Services Manager Diane Kallas, Public Services Manager Melissa Prentice and Administrative Assistant Sydney Mehn. Board of Trustees members absent: John Motiska.

1. OPENING OF MEETING:

- 1.1 CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM. Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. She determined there was a quorum present.
- 1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Quinn led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1.3 PUBLIC COMMENT [5 PEOPLE AT 5 MINUTES EACH] (PLEASE SIGN IN PRIOR TO MEETING). There was no public comment.
- 1.4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Norman **moved** to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2019 meeting, Mannchen **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed**.
- 1.5 CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND COMMON COUNCIL REPORTS. Erickson reported that a ribbon cutting would take place in the plaza on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Quinn passed around Mead bags as a gift to all trustee members.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 2.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE – KYLE WHELTON, CHAIR, REPORT OF 6/27/19 MEETING Whelton reported on the Mead Public Library Finance committee meeting. The accounts payables were reviewed and determined to be in good order.
- 2.2 FINANCE REPORT: 1). REVIEW AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF EXPENDITURES (INCLUDING PAYROLL) AND SPECIAL REVENUES (INCLUDING GRANTS). 2). RECEIVE MONTHLY 2019 BUDGET STATUS REPORT TO DATE. 3). REPORT OF GIFTS RECEIVED - KYLE WHELTON Whelton **moved** to approve payment of expenditures, including payroll, and recurring expenses, gifts and special revenues. Donohue **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed**.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- 3.1 FUND BALANCE POLICY. Erickson reported on the Fund Balance Policy. After some discussion, it was recommended that the last sentence be removed. Whelton **moved** to revise the Fund Balance Policy as presented. Campe **seconded**. The motion **passed**.
- 3.2 2020 OPERATING BUDGET Erickson presented on the change to the budget the library had submitted. Due to state levy, the budget had to be re-calculated to cut 1% out of the original budget. Much discussion took place. DeAmico had brainstormed several ways to

make the reduced amount work and presented 3 options to Erickson. DeAmico and Erickson presented an option that would allow the library to still give merit increases, while holding back on new staff and lowering starting wages of retiring positions. Whelton **moved** to approve option 3 as presented. Norman **seconded**. The motion **passed**.

- 3.3 RESTRICTING LIBRARY RESERVE FUND DeAmico presented the 2018 fiscal year end reserve funds. DeAmico stated that the Library has a healthy reserve after the \$25,000 restricted Insurance reserve, and 25% of the reserve as the Rainy Day Fund, which leaves a balance for 2018 of \$74,306.67 as the unreserved fund balance. DeAmico proposed for \$10,000 - \$15,000.00 per year beginning with the 2018 reserve balance based on the excess above the 25% for Contingency fund to be put into the restricted roof repair reserve. Whelton **moved** to allocate the funds noted to a restricted reserve account for roof repair. Mannchen **seconded**. The motion **passed**.
- 3.4 FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER IN AUGUST 22 & 23, 2020 Erickson informed the board about the Foundations plans to host a mini golf fundraiser at the library on 8/22/2020 and 8/23/2020. He noted that the library would need to close early on Saturday 8/22/2020 in order to accommodate set-up. Donohue **moved** to close the library at 12 p.m. on 8/22/2020. Whelton **seconded**. The motion **passed**.
- 3.5 STAFF SURVEY BY CITY HR DEPARTMENT Erickson reported on the completed staff survey by city HR department. The library had great results from staff with a few key areas to work on. He noted that the city strategic plan will be posted for staff. In addition, communication is an area to be worked on between departments/management.

4. DIRECTORS REPORT

- 4.1 UPDATE ON SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING Prentice began by reporting that the ALA Lynda program would be changing soon to become part of LinkedIn Learning. This would require people to have a LinkedIn account, which is against our privacy policy. She noted that we are looking at Knowledge City instead, which would also be a cost savings for us, so there may be other platforms added as well. She next reported on the latest programs at Mead: 500 Books Before Middle School is a new program aimed at continuing literacy into middle school. The first in the Great Decisions series drew 50 people. The Repair Café with Habitat for Humanity was a success with about 12 people participating, all who brought their own lamps. The library will be having another scientist in residence, this time an animal specialist, and the program will run for 4-6 weeks. Ada Lovelace day is coming up which will be paired with our Girls STEM Day. The Sheboygan Children & Teens Book Festival is also upcoming on October 12 & 13. Late @ The Library Zombie Prom is also upcoming on October 18, which will be an adult themed Halloween party. Lastly, Prentice advised that a future meeting room policy would be coming. The current policy is still causing some issues.
- 4.2 MERCHANDISE SALES Erickson highlighted the new promotional material that the library is selling: Men's, Women's and Children's tee shirts, as well as coffee mugs. He also talked about the upcoming project on the Ruben Vega paintings being reprinted into cards, calendars, etc.
- 4.3 UPDATE ON OUTSIDE/BUILDING PROJECTS Kallas reported on all the projects around the library: The carpeting is completed, with only a little bit left to do in the

Imaginarium. HVAC control work is being done currently with the basement first, then 3rd floor and so on. Final work is being completed on the cooling towers as well. We are awaiting work on the makerspace until after some upcoming events. IT room progress is also on hold awaiting parts. The Wi-Fi has been updated throughout the building. The outside fence is down and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony upcoming.

- 4.4 MONTHLY STATISTICS Erickson reviewed the August statistics noting that Mead has become a net borrower, primarily of older items and movies from other libraries. Otherwise the statistics were found to be in good order.

5. LIAISON REPORTS

- 5.1 MONARCH LIBRARY SYSTEM – NANCY MANNCHEN. Mannchen reported on the 9/12 meeting. Amy Birtell has submitted her resignation due to her health concerns and the group accepted with sadness. With that, the budget is being looked at in order to hire another director. Lowell library will be closing it's doors, unsure of where the inventory will go to or what will remain. An ad hoc committee is looking at keeping Monarch in compliance with state regulations and such. Lastly, Mannchen mentioned that she is involved in a Book Mobile Committee that is looking at working with/on the wrap on the book mobile.
- 5.2 MEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION – MAEVE QUINN/KATHIE NORMAN. Norman reported on the Foundation meeting of 9/25. She informed the group that Schenk had presented their review of tax documents for the year and that all was in good order. She further presented that the Foundation would be hosting the mini golf fundraising event, as well as an author visit by David Sheff. Lastly, she reported that the Foundation had approved the 2020 wish list for \$51,000.
- 5.3 FRIENDS OF THE MEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY – SYDNY MEHN. Mehn attached the report and it was found to be in good order.

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 6.1 LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (10/24/19 @ 3:45PM)

7. ADJOURN

- 7.1 MOTION TO ADJOURN Whelton **moved** to adjourn the meeting, Guevara **seconded**. The motion **passed**.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Generated by Sydney Mehn on Monday September 30, 2019.

REVISED by Sydney Mehn on Thursday February 6, 2020.

Minutes
Mead Public Library
Board of Trustees
January 23, 2020

A meeting of the Mead Public Library (MPL) Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 in The Loft. The following Board of Trustees members were present: Board President Maeve Quinn, Meg Albrinck, Chris Campe, Alderperson Mary Lynne Donohue, Marcos Guevara, Vice-President Kathie Norman, Sherry Speth and Kyle Whelton. Staff members present: Director Garrett Erickson, Business Manager Debbie DeAmico, Support Services Manager Cheryl Nessman, Public Services Manager Melissa Prentice and Administrative Assistant Sydney Mehn. Board of Trustees members absent: Nancy Mannchen. Public present: Diane Kallas

1. OPENING OF MEETING:

- 1.1 CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM. Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. She determined there was a quorum present.
- 1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Quinn led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1.3 PUBLIC COMMENT [5 PEOPLE AT 5 MINUTES EACH] (PLEASE SIGN IN PRIOR TO MEETING). There was no public comment.
- 1.4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Norman **moved** to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2019 meeting, Donohue **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed**.
- 1.5 CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND COMMON COUNCIL REPORTS. Erickson reported that there had been a firearms ordinance passed, we will be supplied with a decal for our doors. There will also be firearms training held 1/30/20.
- 1.6 ADOPT RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF DIANE KALLAS AS MEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF MEMBER. Norman **moved** to approve the resolution in honor of the service of Diane Kallas; Whelton **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed**.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 2.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE – KYLE WHELTON, CHAIR. REPORT OF 1/23/20 MEETING Whelton turned the report over to DeAmico who noted that the end of year report would be coming, hopefully before the next full board meeting. She is waiting on the final numbers from the City.
- 2.2 FINANCE REPORT. 1). REVIEW AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF EXPENDITURES (INCLUDING PAYROLL) AND SPECIAL REVENUES (INCLUDING GRANTS) 2). RECEIVE MONTHLY 2018 BUDGET STATUS REPORT TO DATE. 3). REPORT OF GIFTS RECEIVED – KYLE WHELTON. Whelton reported that MPL had received donations totaling \$23,501 from 9-26-19 to 1-23-20.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- 3.1 MONARCH LIBRARY SYSTEM MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT Erickson introduced the new Monarch membership agreement. No major updates or changes had been

implemented. Donohue **moved** to accept and agree to the membership as presented. Whelton **seconded**. The motion **passed**.

- 3.2 STAFF IN-SERVICE DAY ON MARCH 13 Erickson reported on the proposed staff in-service date of Friday March 13th. Whelton **moved** to approve the closing of the library on March 13, 2020 for the staff in-service. Albrinck **seconded**. The motion **passed**.
- 3.3 OPERATIONAL PLAN UPDATE Prentice presented the finalized version of the operational plan. No comments were brought up.
- 3.4 FINE FREE INITIATIVES Erickson began the conversation by showing a short TED Talk on the subject. The discussion continued after with many comments and ideas. Donohue noted that we should be very careful with how the program would be implemented, and that we ought to find out how it has worked for other libraries. Another consideration is how to track the results of this initiative. Whelton suggested a phased approach, with youth being the first group to benefit from the change. Albrinck suggested that statistics could be shown by district. Quinn compared the initiative to that of the school lunch program, noting that children were never punished for the parent's lack of funding. Norman suggested that there should be a clear line in the policy, for example: no fines for late items, but replacement costs would still apply. Guevara noted that he was an advocate for eliminating fines retroactively. He noted that policies that are put into place should answer at least one of three questions: Is it causing harm or not causing harm, is it correcting a past harm, and is it elevating the people that we serve. DeAmico discussed the financial impact on the operating budget. While it is not a substantial part of our bottom line, it is a large chunk of money that we would have to make up in some other way. Erickson is going to gather info from other Monarch libraries that have implemented this and bring it back next time for consideration. In the meantime he assigned board members to research the topic and be prepared for discussion.
- 3.5 ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF JOINT LIBRARY BOARD AND CITY FINANCE MEETING ON 1/27/20 Erickson reported that the City Finance and the Library Board's annual joint meeting would take place on Monday, January 27th at 5 p.m. Items for discussion would be the parking lot meters and concerns over the City budget/staff pay scales. Quinn also intends to give a brief recap of 2019 in the form of an annual summary.
- 3.6 2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS The meeting schedule was presented as an FYI for the group.

4. DIRECTORS REPORT

- 4.1 UPDATE ON SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING Prentice reported that there was not a lot to discuss this month, that it had mostly been reoccurring programs in January. She did note our Maker in residence program, and further introduced 2 new staff members: Erica Huntzinger and John Tully. She also reported that there were new online resources. Knowledge City is replacing Lynda, we also have digital New York Times, an update to our historical Wisconsin newspapers, Chilton manuals, American Mosaic and Culturegrams. Lastly, she informed the group that she and Jennifer Chamberlain would be speaking with Terry Katsma, Devin LeMahue and Tyler Vorpagel at Library

Legislative Day. In addition, she and Alison Loewen will be attending PLA in Nashville in February.

- 4.2 UPDATE ON BUILDING PROJECTS Nessman reported on the projects around the library. She noted that the Makerspace enclosure is finished. She also noted that we are waiting on the fireplace inserts. Lastly, she noted that the maintenance staff will be painting throughout the library.
- 4.3 MONTHLY STATISTICS INCLUDING CHANGE TO WIRELESS METRIC Stats were presented. Nessman noted that the wireless stats will be changing soon. The new stats will be recording unique devices as opposed to accesses. This way the count will be more accurate, but will probably be lower than it has been.

Donohue left at 4:55

5. LIAISON REPORTS

- 5.1 MONARCH LIBRARY SYSTEM – NANCY MANNCHEN. Mannchen was out sick, so this item will be tabled until next month.
- 5.2 MEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION – MAEVE QUINN/KATHIE NORMAN. Quinn reported on the Foundation meeting the day prior. She discussed the author visit by both David Sheff and now Nic Sheff, to be held on April 22, 2020. The group has partnered with the SASD and the Sheboygan Public Education Foundation to have Nic speak to the 8th graders in Sheboygan. Lastly, she spoke on the mini golf event coming on August 22 and 23, 2020.
- 5.3 FRIENDS OF THE MEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY – SYDNY MEHN. Mehn reported on the Friends annual meeting and board meeting. She noted the Friends participation in the Mini Golf event raffle. The baskets will be: Experience Sheboygan, A taste of Wisconsin and Destination Kohler. She advised that anyone with items/suggested places/ideas should speak to her.

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 6.1 JOINT MEETING WITH LIBRARY BOARD AND FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (1/27/20 @ 5PM)
- 6.2 LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2/27/20 @ 3:45PM) WE WILL DISCUSS PALACES FOR THE PEOPLE, REACH INTRO AND CHAPTERS 1, 3 AND 6
- 6.3 LIBRARY FINANCE COMMITTEE (4/23/20 @ 3:00PM)

7. ADJOURN

- 7.1 MOTION TO ADJOURN Whelton **moved** to adjourn the meeting, Speth **seconded**. The motion **passed**.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.
Generated by Sydney Mehn on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

III

4.3

Res. No. 168 - 19 - 20. By Alderperson Donohue. February 17, 2020.

A RESOLUTION authorizing the creation of a Poet Laureate program in the City of Sheboygan.

WHEREAS, poetry tells the history of human feeling and can sustain the emotional memory of a community; and

WHEREAS, poetry allows us to perceive our experience with greater richness and complexity; and

WHEREAS, poetry can carry us to the frontiers of linguistic imagination so that we can articulate our vision of the future; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of poetic traditions allows us to know more about our own culture and can serve as a passport to the cultures of others; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office desires to establish and support a Poet Laureate position and to develop policies and procedures for the position; and

WHEREAS, the Mead Public Library also desires to participate in establishing and supporting a Poet Laureate position.

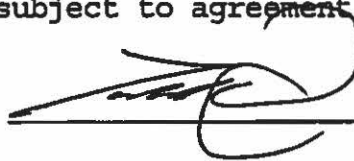
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the honorary position of Poet Laureate is hereby created and acknowledged by the City of Sheboygan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Mayor or his/her designee and the Director of the Mead Public Library shall serve as the municipal liaisons to the Poet Laureate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That future Sheboygan Poet Laureates shall be proclaimed by the Mayor. This position is voluntary, and the person serving as Poet Laureate shall not be considered a City employee or a City official.

Mead Library
Board of
Trustees

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the attached document shall govern the initial selection and duties of the Poet Laureate. The Mayor and the Director of the Mead Public Library are authorized to make changes to the selection process and duties as they see fit, and subject to agreement by both parties.



I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed by the Common Council of the City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Dated _____ 20____. _____, City Clerk

Approved _____ 20____. _____, Mayor

Sheboygan Poet Laureate April 2020 – April 2023

Duties

Beyond the duties listed below, the job is left to the poet's individual imagination.

- 1) Write at least one poem per year for presentation and publication. The presentation will be at a civic event or meeting yet to be determined. Publication will be in the *Sheboygan Insider* and presented on the City's website.
- 2) We encourage the Poet Laureate to develop a special project such as an event, publication, or program which highlights poetry in a public way.
- 3) Participate in selecting the next Poet Laureate and guide the transition into the role.

Term of Service

The Term of Service as Sheboygan Poet Laureate is for three years from April 1, 2020 through April 1, 2023.

Honoraria

The Mead Public Library has committed \$300.00 for an honorarium. The appointed Poet Laureate may use these funds at her or his discretion.

Criteria and Selection Process

1) Residency

Preference is given to year-round Sheboygan area residents. City of Sheboygan residents are eligible to apply.

2) Publication

Publication in a book or collection of poetry is preferred, but not required.

3) Poetry Samples

Supply no fewer than six and no more than ten sample poems representative of your work.

4) Resume

The resume should not exceed two pages.

5) Proposed activities

An explanation of what the applicant would hope to accomplish as Poet Laureate, including potential ideas for a special project (up to two pages).

Note: recommendation letters are not appropriate and will not be considered.

Sheboygan Poet Laureate April 2020 – April 2023

Application Form

Applications accepted: March __, 2020 – March __, 2020

Date:

Name of Applicant:

Address:

Home Telephone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

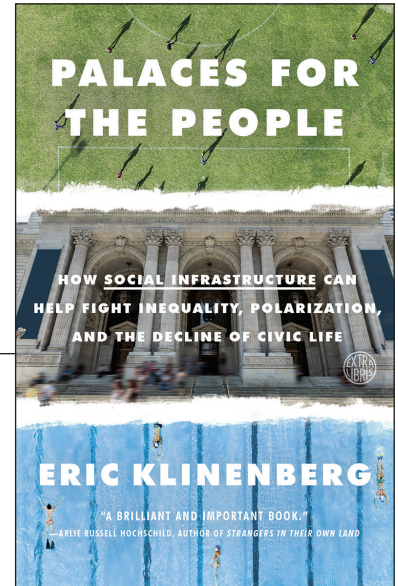
Signature:

Your signature confirms to the Mead Public Library and the City of Sheboygan that the information included within this application is accurate and true.

Palaces for the People

How Social Infrastructure Can Help
Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the
Decline of Civic Life

by Eric Klinenberg



Do not order paperback before 9/10/2019.

Broadway Books | Paperback | 978-1-5247-6117-2 | 304 pages | \$18.00

Crown | Hardcover | 978-1-5247-6116-5 | 288 pages | \$28.00

Also available in e-book format and as an audio download

"Klinenberg draws on loads of published scholarship as well as his own, weaving it together into a powerful argument. . . . What Klinenberg advocates is not luxury along the lines of grand train stations of the past but decency and thoughtfulness in designing the spaces we live in." —*Inside Higher Ed*

"Eric Klinenberg believes that social life can be designed well, just as good buildings are. His book is full of hope, which is all the more striking because Klinenberg is a realist. He is a major social thinker, and this is a beautifully written, major book." —Richard Sennett, Professor of Sociology, London School of Economics

• about the book •

We are living in a time of deep divisions. Americans are sorting themselves along racial, religious, and cultural lines, leading to a level of polarization that the country hasn't seen since the Civil War. Pundits and politicians are calling for us to come together and find common purpose. But how, exactly, can this be done?

In *Palaces for the People*, Eric Klinenberg suggests a way forward. He believes that the future of democratic societies rests not simply on shared values but on shared spaces: the libraries, childcare centers, churches, and parks where crucial connections are formed. Interweaving his own research with examples from around the globe, Klinenberg shows how "social infrastructure" is helping to solve some of our most pressing societal challenges. Richly reported and ultimately uplifting, *Palaces for the People* offers a blueprint for bridging our seemingly unbridgeable divides.

• about the author

Eric Klinenberg is a professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. He is the coauthor of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Modern Romance* and the author of the acclaimed books *Going Solo* and *Heat Wave*. He has contributed to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *This American Life*.

• note to the instructor

In *Palaces for the People*, Klinenberg draws on extensive research spanning his academic career to highlight the importance of social infrastructure—“physical places or organizations that shape the way people interact” (5). Further, he contends that as “societies around the world are becoming more fragmented, divided, and conflicted” (8), social infrastructure, which is often overlooked in favor of spending initiatives on “critical infrastructure” (transit, communications, electrical systems, etc.), could play a crucial role in repairing our ever-widening divisions.

From the outset, Klinenberg makes the distinction between social infrastructure (libraries, schools, churches, parks, etc.) and social capital (“the measure of people’s relationships and interpersonal networks” [5]). Through Klinenberg’s descriptions of successful examples of social infrastructure around the world, the reader is able to understand both the impact of social cohesion on public health and its potential role in addressing political polarization, climate change, inequality, and other challenges America faces today. While social infrastructure alone cannot solve all that ails a community, Klinenberg convincingly establishes the vital role it plays in uniting communities and the overwhelming benefits of expanding our investment in these sorts of public spaces.

• recurring themes

The Role of Libraries

Andrew, an employee at the Seward Park Library, is quoted as saying, “There’s a term you don’t hear these days, one you used to hear all the time when the Carnegie branches opened: Palaces for the People” (53). Why did Andrew Carnegie choose this descriptor for his libraries? Klinenberg spotlights a variety of places and institutions in his text; why did he choose this as the title of the text? How does the author use and refine the meaning of the phrase “Palaces for the People” over the course of the text? In recent years, many libraries have grappled with financial challenges, and, as Klinenberg explains, “. . . political leaders driven by the logic of the market have proclaimed that institutions like the library don’t work any longer, that we’d be better off investing in new technologies and trusting our fate to the invisible hand” (220). How has the American cultural relationship to the library changed over the years and how has the availability of technology impacted that relationship? How does consumer spending influence the focus of political leaders, and should the value of the library, an inherently “free” public institution, be subject to the “logic of the market”? As technology continues to develop and information becomes even more readily available, should the government dedicate more resources to the maintenance of public libraries or allocate those resources toward the establishment of new ways of providing universal access to information through technology? Why or why not? How can libraries better establish themselves as valuable and essential institutions in communities?

Mixed-Group Relationships

In describing the effects of deindustrialization, Klinenberg writes, “. . . deindustrialization devastated neighborhoods, making cities and suburbs throughout the United States even more segregated by race and class” (151). How has the fall of industrialization contributed to polarization in America, and what role does social infrastructure play in lessening this gap? Klinenberg states that today Americans are less likely to marry someone outside their social class (153). How does this phenomenon further exacerbate the chasm between groups? Why is diversity across social class, race, ethnicity, and religion important in the formation and socialization of groups? How has Iceland’s establishment of public pools helped to unite its people? How does the societal role of the public pool in Iceland differ from the role that the public pool has historically played in American society? How does a safe space, such as a black barbershop, “serve as a valuable resource that, counterintuitively, diversifies and enriches American civic life” (161)?

The Impact of the Internet

Despite the common misconception that the Internet is responsible for increasing loneliness and isolation, Klinenberg cites research by Claude Fischer that “shows that the quality and quantity of Americans’ relationships are about the same today as they were before the Internet existed” (41). If the Internet is not to blame for people’s increased feelings of isolation and loneliness, what is? What impact does the Internet have on social experiences? Research conducted by danah boyd, of Data & Society, suggests that as parents have curbed their teenagers’ “freedom to roam around their neighborhoods and local public spaces” (43), their time spent online has increased. Is this a healthy trade-off? Despite lower crime rates today versus previous generations, boyd’s research suggests that “adults have restricted [teenagers’] mobility so thoroughly” that they don’t have many alternatives to communicating primarily via smartphones. What reasons might today’s parents have for more intensely restricting their teens’ social lives? What kinds of opportunities exist in communities for teens to socialize outside of school, and how does children’s lack of access to outdoor public places affect their health and influence their leisure activities? How does the Internet “contribute to our widening ideological divisions” (174) while also allowing people to “build more unlikely social bridges” (175)? In what ways could people be encouraged to use the Internet to better connect with their communities?

The Architecture of Spaces

Klinenberg writes, “In coming decades, the world’s most affluent societies will invest trillions of dollars on new infrastructure—seawalls, smart grids, basins for capturing rainwater—that can withstand twenty-first century challenges, including megastorms like Harvey and Irma” (187). What opportunities arise for the development of social infrastructure alongside increased spending on physical infrastructure? How did the winning projects in the Rebuild by Design competition following Hurricane Sandy, for which Klinenberg served as research director, integrate social infrastructure? In what ways does the incorporation of social infrastructure into these projects potentially affect the community before, during, and after megastorms and natural disasters? In Bangladesh, the “floating schools and libraries” program was implemented by a nonprofit. What level of responsibility for innovative programs such as this falls to the government, to citizens, or to nonprofits? What are the best means by which to affect innovative changes in one’s community?

discussion points

Exclusive Social Infrastructures

In describing Caldeira's assessment of gated communities, Klinenberg writes, "Caldeira grants that these systems protect those who can afford them, but worries, quite rightly, that they weaken democracy, deepen social divisions, and endanger as well as infuriate the people whom they exclude" (73). In what ways do gated communities negatively impact a society as a whole? Should gated communities be allowed to exist? Klinenberg describes a situation in Jacarezinho in which "an impoverished, crime-ridden community" installed gates and security cameras in an attempt to monitor and mitigate police violence against them. How is the community's use of gates and security in Jacarezinho both similar to and different from that of typical gated communities, and did those differences warrant the removal of the gates?

In regard to fraternities, Klinenberg states, "Since most fraternities select people with similar backgrounds and interests—ethnicity, race, religion, class, or often sports (and occasionally academics)—joining one is an effective way to avoid the diversity and difference a university offers" (97). Campus clubs and other groups are also formed based on commonalities, whether they be academic or social. Do groups formed in this manner constitute a beneficial form of social infrastructure? Is there a reliable way to gauge the value of these groups? Due to the reputation fraternities have earned at a national level for their involvement in "rampant discrimination, violent hazing, excessive drinking, and, too often, sexual assault" (97), have they, as Klinenberg suggests, "earned an expulsion" (98)?

Crime

Klinenberg quotes C. Ray Jeffery: "There are no criminals, only environmental circumstances which result in criminal behavior. Given the proper environmental structure, anyone will be a criminal or a noncriminal" (59). Yet Klinenberg argues that ". . . most policies that aim to reduce crime focus on punishing people rather than improving places" (59). In what ways does one's environment shape one's choices? How can environments be designed to discourage crime?

Silicon Valley and the Role of Big Business

Klinenberg describes the impacts that the tech giants in California have on surrounding areas, writing, "There is another community that has suffered devastating losses since Facebook and other big tech companies began setting up shop in the Bay Area: poor, working-class, and middle-class residents of the region, who have been steadily priced and crowded out" (213). What responsibility do large companies have as they expand into preexisting neighborhoods and communities? How and for what should they be held accountable? Contrasting the philanthropy of today's business owners with that of the tycoons of the past, Klinenberg explains, "Entrepreneurs have amassed vast fortunes in the new information economy, and yet no one has come close to doing what Carnegie did between 1883 and 1929, when he funded construction of 2,811 lending libraries, 1,679 of which are in the United States" (218). Is it the responsibility of wealthy individuals to contribute to social infrastructure? Why or why not? Does the fact that the entire tech industry "depends on a technology developed by the government—the Internet—and a publicly funded communications infrastructure" (219) play a role in their degree of accountability to the public?

Public Health Risks

In discussing “the largest American public health crisis since the HIV/AIDS epidemic: opioid addiction” (118), Klinenberg describes Switzerland’s “international model of effective, if still controversial, social infrastructure, and one with a proven record of saving lives” (122). Why is Switzerland’s approach so controversial despite its successes? Should more countries adopt this approach in addressing opioid addiction? How is Boston’s approach both similar to and different from the Swiss approach?

classroom activities

1. In reference to the impacts of global warming, Klinenberg writes, “ferocious hurricanes, searing heat waves, and raging wildfires have threatened life and destroyed valuable property in the world’s most affluent societies” (199). Choose a natural disaster that had devastating effects on a particular community and research the preparation for and response to the event. Write a critical analysis that provides background on the events preceding and following the disaster as well as its lasting impacts. Include in your analysis a proposed way forward that would enable both the government and communities to be better equipped to cope in these situations.
2. Research the definition of gentrification and its impact on various communities across the country. Pay close attention to its results (both pitfalls and benefits), whom is affected, and in what ways. Read these two pieces presenting opposing views on the issue of gentrification in Denver: tiny.cc/inkcoffee and tiny.cc/gentrification. Upon completion of your research, compose an opinion piece explaining whether or not gentrification is beneficial to local communities. Include in your piece an acknowledgment and counter of the opposing argument.
3. Research the current status of hard infrastructure proposals in the American political arena. Additionally, review the “American Infrastructure Report Card” (tiny.cc/usreportcard). Which are the most pressing issues and how is the United States currently addressing these issues in various communities? How can these issues be adequately addressed while also improving social infrastructure?
4. Begin by reading the article “Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety,” available online as part of *The Atlantic*’s archives. Then, use the list of articles in the “Chapter 2: Notes” section (pages 244–245) to find the criticisms of the broken-window theory written by Bernard Harcourt, Robert Sampson, Stephen Raudenbush, and Franklin Zimring. Read at least two of the criticisms and write an informed critique of the theory addressing its validity or lack thereof. Include in your critique the arguments against the theory and assess their credibility.
5. In discussing the polarity of the media, Klinenberg writes, “. . . as social inequality and class segregation have deepened, national news programs that transcended ideological lines have lost viewers, and the Internet has generated the rise of ‘filter bubbles,’ where everyone can find facts and opinions that confirm their beliefs” (151). Choose a politically polarizing topic and identify four articles on the topic from four different sources. Ensure

a balanced view by utilizing articles from both liberal- and conservative-leaning outlets, and include articles whose arguments contradict your own personal opinions. Read the articles, and write an analysis describing your own opinion on the topic and your reasoning behind it. Address the arguments of the articles you read in your analysis, and assess the value or lack thereof of engaging with opinions that diverge from your own. Link your conclusion to Klinenberg’s discussion of “filter bubbles.”

6. Form small research teams and list examples of social infrastructure in your community. Start with those places that Klinenberg directly identifies, such as parks, libraries, universities, etc., but also expand your scope to include any other “physical places or organizations that shape the way people interact” (5). Discuss the effectiveness of each in terms of both engaging the community and encouraging a sense of community. Take into account in your discussion societal problems that your community specifically faces, and create a presentation illustrating how social infrastructure could be improved, or implemented, to better serve the needs of your community.

resources

“Actions That Build Community,” (tiny.cc/communitybuildingactions): A checklist of ideas and ways in which individuals can work to build community in their own lives.

Chera Kowalski’s TED Talk, “The Critical Role That Libraries Play in the Opioid Crisis,” (tiny.cc/libraryopioids): Kowalski discusses the importance of libraries in general as well as her personal experience working to improve health and safety in her own community.

“Eric Klinenberg: Palaces for the People | Talks at Google,” (tiny.cc/klinenberggoogle): The author speaks about his book and provides additional context for ideas explored in the text.

“Harvard Kennedy School Social Capital Toolkit,” (tiny.cc/socialcapitaltoolkit): A resource providing information about social capital and how it encourages development in communities.

Susan Pinker’s TED Talk, “The Secret to Living Longer May Be Your Social Life,” (tiny.cc/livinglonger): Susan discusses her research in a Sardinian blue zone and addresses the impacts of social relationships on life expectancy.

“The Concord Handbook: How to Build Social Capital Across Communities,” (tiny.cc/uclasocialcapital): A handbook created by the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research, outlining design principles that effective organizations have used in “creating ‘bridging social capital’—the human and organizational resources that span social differences.” This is a resource for organizations and others interested in implementing strategies that successfully bring differing groups together across communities.

• other works of interest

Modern Romance, Aziz Ansari and Eric Klinenberg

City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo, Teresa Caldeira

Alienated America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse, Timothy P. Carney

The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Jane Jacobs

Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago, Eric Klinenberg

Netherland, Joseph O'Neill

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community, Robert D. Putnam

#Republic: Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media, Cass R. Sunstein

• about this guide's writers

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Penguin Random House Education, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

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IMMEDIATE SURVEY

FOLLOW UP SURVEY

SORT BY:

TOPIC ▼

SCORE ▼

FILTER BY:

PROG. NAME ▼

DATE ▼

AVERAGE SCORE MATRIX

Scoring 1.0



Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

5.0

Outcome

Topic

Education/Lifelong Learning



SURVEY RESPONSES BY PERCENT

JUMP TO Responses by Count

*N/A responses are not included in charts or percentage calculations. Note that due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%. The number of responses for each specific survey question are displayed below. Use the controls to filter or group responses by available options.

IMMEDIATE SURVEY

FOLLOW UP SURVEY

FILTER BY ▶

OUTCOME ▼

SURVEY TOPIC ▼

PROG. NAME ▼

DATE ▼

Filter & Export Open-Ended Responses

Education/Lifelong Learning OUTCOME



Topic/Outcome Averages LIBRARY STATE/PROV. NATIONAL TOTAL

SURVEY RESPONSES BY COUNT

JUMP TO Responses by Percent

*N/A responses are included in the count tables below.

Education/Lifelong Learning OUTCOME

Outcome	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	NOT APPLICABLE	RESPONSES	STATE/PROV.	NATIONAL	TOTAL
You learned something that is helpful	2	0	1	5	28	0	36	1,510	96,514	103,050
You feel more confident about what you just learned	0	0	1	9	26	0	36	1,510	96,514	103,050
You intend to apply what you just learned	0	1	1	13	20	0	36	1,510	96,514	103,050
You are more aware of resources and services provided by the library	0	0	2	7	27	0	36	1,510	96,514	103,050

Type	Name	January 2019	January 2020	Monthly 2019 vs 2020	Year-to-date 2019	Year-to-date 2020	YTD 2019 vs 2020
Circulation Transactions	Adult Materials	29571	27993	-5%	29571	27993	-5%
	Teen Materials	933	875	-6%	933	875	-6%
	Children's Materials	13555	13177	-3%	13555	13177	-3%
	Total Adult/Teen/Children's Materials	44059	42045	-5%	44059	42045	-5%
Materials Shared With Other Libraries	Items provided to other libraries from Mead	5470	6195	13%	5470	6195	13%
	Items received for Mead patrons from other libraries	6323	7411	17%	6323	7411	17%
	Total Interlibrary Loans (Transits)	11793	13606	15%	11793	13606	15%
E-Content Checkouts	Books and audiobooks (Libby, Hoopla, RB Digital)	6472	6834	6%	6472	6834	6%
	Music (Hoopla)	212	111	-48%	212	111	-48%
	Video (Hoopla, Kanopy)	943	552	-41%	943	552	-41%
	Magazines (RB Digital)	93	128	38%	93	128	38%
	Total E-Content Checkouts	7720	7625	-1%	7720	7625	-1%
Library Visits	Gate count	23220	23350	1%	23220	23350	1%
Research Inquiries	Research Inquiries	3140	3611	15%	3140	3611	15%
Internet Usage Provided	Library Workstation Sessions	4111	3250	-21%	4111	3250	-21%
	Wireless Sessions	12580	6299	-50%	12580	6299	-50%
Number of Library Card Holders	Sheboygan Residents				33099	34438	4%
	Non-Sheboygan Residents				9221	9094	-1%
	Total Number of Library Card Holders				42320	43532	3%
Classes, Seminars, Workshops, Events	Children (0-11) Quantity	72	58	-19%	72	58	-19%
	Children (0-11) Participants	1709	1198	-30%	1709	1198	-30%
	Teen (12-18) Quantity	4	3	-25%	4	3	-25%
	Teen (12-18) Participants	123	124	1%	123	124	1%
	Adult (18+) Quantity	37	48	30%	37	48	30%
	Adult (18+) Participants	489	550	12%	489	550	12%
	Total number of Classes, Seminars, Workshops, Events	113	109	-4%	113	109	-4%
Conference Room Utilization	Rocca Meeting Room	25%	18%	-7%	25%	18%	-7%
	Loft Meeting Room	28%	32%	4%	28%	32%	4%
	2nd Floor Small Meeting Room	32%	31%	-1%	32%	31%	-1%
Study Rooms Utilization	Study Rooms Hours Used	522	408.5	-22%	522	408.5	-22%
	Percent Utilization	35%	27%	-8%	35%	27%	-8%
Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Hours	529.08	549.35	4%	529.08	549.35	4%

Friends of the Mead Public Library Meeting Report-2-19-2020

- Friends will be hosting Pi Day on 3.14.20 where they will be selling pi shaped cookies, and giving away mini pies, and also have crafts/activities to do with Pi.
- Friends will also be hosting a Friends gathering/luncheon in April, just to show appreciation to members. The meeting will include a presentation/small tutorial on ukuleles from Lil' Rev.