



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
January 19, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2011. President Tom Reedy presided, and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bently Green, Bill Kuc, Pete Ruger, Stacy Deleste, Bob Herdler; City Council Liaison Debi Salberg; and Margy Beggs from Laura McCarthy Realty

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the November 17, 2010 Meeting

Ms. Deleste moved to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. Herdler seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Mr. Reedy reported that the City Council has approved a new trustee for the Board, Nancy Marshall. He noted that we have had some good press about the library recently—an article about our temporary facility on the STL Today website, and a mention in Mayor Welch's recent address about improvements in the city. He also noted that with a new board member, he would take a look soon at committee assignments and see if we needed to reassign people.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper reported that there was a recent problem with a strong, unidentified odor in the stacks area of the temporary library. They are controlling it by running the exhaust fan, but the landlord is supposed to come by soon and see about it.

Advanced Planning

Mr. Green spoke about the current state of the building project. Frederick construction has encountered some rock that will need to be dug out, and some bad soil which has to be replaced before a foundation can be built.

Automation/Systems

Mr. Cooper presented an outline of technology needs in the new building, including more public access computers, more computers for the children's room, and a laptop computer lab for teaching classes. Using this outline, he will now begin applying for state grants to pay for a large part of the new equipment.

Building and Grounds

Margy Beggs of Laura McCarthy realty spoke about the price of the Mason house. She fears that not only are we in a bad housing market with low prices, but that the library board paid too much for the house even when prices were high. Although she is not recommending the current offer from a prospective buyer, she does think the board needs to think about a reduction to a more reasonable price.

Ms. Deleste moved that we counter-offer at \$299,000. Mr. Kuc seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Cooper will communicate this to Ms. Beggs.

Finance

Mr. Herdler reviewed the financial report and disbursements for November and December, 2010. Mr. Ruger moved to accept the bills as presented, Ms. Deleste seconded, and they were approved.

Human Resource

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

Mr. Cooper reported that our auditor has asked us to create a Fund Balance policy. He is working on a draft. Mr. Ruger reported that he will be asking another student to work on a draft of an Investment Policy.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Each trustee got a copy of the audit report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, which they should review and bring any questions to the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, February 16 at 7 p.m.