



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
January 16, 2013

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2013. President Tom Reedy presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Stacy Deleste, Nancy Marshall, Jackie Brenne, Joan Esserman, Bill Kuc, and Peter Ruger, and City Council Liaison Debi Salberg. Absent: Trustees Bently Green and Bob Herdler.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the December 19, 2012 Meeting

Ms. Marshall moved to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. Kuc seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

There was a letter from Webster Groves resident Rob Dreyer, who is also an artist specializing in nature paintings. Included were photographs of three of his paintings, which he is offering to loan the library for up to two years. He has suggested presenting them as a triptych, displayed on the large south wall at the upper level. The board liked the paintings in general, though there was some concern that a two-year loan may be rather long. There may be other offers of donations or loans in the meantime. It was suggested that Mr. Cooper contact Mr. Dreyer and ask if we could negotiate a one-year loan.

President's Report

Mr. Reedy recently toured the newly renovated St. Louis Public Library, which he found to be a beautiful building. Other trustees who had toured it shared the opinion.

Mr. Reedy has spoken with Craig Smith, our attorney at Polsinelli Shughart who is handling our claims with Travelers Insurance. He has received the documentation he was awaiting from KAI and PBA, and assembling our final claim.

Librarian's Report

There were a number of questions about the ongoing patron complaints about ADA issues and accommodations. In the end, it was decided that Mr. Reedy would invite the patron to attend the next Board meeting, at which we would also include our

architectural advisors, and see if we could clarify our stance concerning her complaints.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

Building and Grounds

Mr. Cooper mentioned that there are still a number of small problems with the building, and new ones are developing from time to time. He also believes that there could be a quicker response time on some of these from Demien and from subcontractors. He noted that, if he continues to experience any more delays, he may begin copying board officers or committee chairs on communications with the builder and architect.

Finance

There were no financial reports presented at the meeting, as the library staff has been bitten by the flu bug. Full reports will be available next month.

Human Resource

Pursuant to section 610.021 of Missouri Revised Statutes, Ms. Deleste moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Ruger seconded, and the votes were as follows:

Reedy: Aye Deleste: Aye Brenne: Aye Marshall: Aye Kuc: Aye
Ruger: Aye Esserman: Aye

After the discussion, Mr. Ruger moved to reopen the Board meeting, Ms. Deleste seconded, and the meeting was reopened.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Old Business

There was a discussion of a final resolution for the neighboring property. The Board last offered the Millers to clean and sod or mulch the affected area of their yard along the new fence line, and to give them \$500 to help pay for whatever sort of retaining wall they are planning to install. In her response, Mrs. Miller said that her estimate of the wall was much higher than that. She asked that the library provide some trees to provide more of a visual barrier between her house and the library.

Ms. Salberg has discussed this with Director of Planning Mara Perry, and her opinion is that sodding the graded area will provide a better protection against runoff than mulch. She also does not believe trees will thrive in the area where they would need to be planted. Given this input, the Board does not believe providing trees would be a good investment of taxpayer funds, and could lead to an open-ended commitment

of replanting to try and keep trees alive. Mr. Cooper will contact the Millers and let them know that the previous plan to clean and sod the affected area, and give them \$500 towards construction of their chosen retaining wall, is still the offer.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, February 20 at 7 p.m.