



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
May 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2013. President Tom Reedy presided, and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bill Kuc, Stacy Deleste, Nancy Marshall, Jackie Brenne, Bob Herdler, Peter Ruger, and Joan Esserman, and City Council Liaison Debi Salberg. Absent: Trustee Bently Green.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the April 17, 2013 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Mr. Reedy discussed the status of two complaints that have been filed against the library and several entities associated with the renovation and expansion of the building.

We are working on an agreement to finalize our payment to Demien Construction. Though both the Library and Demien have claims against one another, it looks like we will come to an agreement without resorting to arbitration. Mr. Reedy wanted all trustees to understand that this settled agreement will involve us foregoing some of our claims to liquidated damages.

Frederich Construction (FCI) was awarded \$2 million in arbitration with the City of Chesterfield. Since the company will not be filing for bankruptcy, Travelers Insurance will be looking to FCI for compensation of some of the money they paid out on our claims. This will likely delay final resolution of our claim against FCI.

Stacy Deleste, who has served nine years on the board, mostly as Chair of the Human Resources Committee, is attending her last meeting tonight. We thank her for her service and wish her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper told the board that the directors of the Municipal Library Consortium (MLC) have been discussing the status of their reciprocal arrangement with St. Louis County Library. Our debt to them has been increasing rapidly over the past few years. This is troubling because, while usage at County Library seems to be skyrocketing, none of the nine member libraries of the MLC show similar or compensatory shifts in usage. Considering this open-ended and poorly defined liability, some of the MLC libraries are increasingly determined to end the reciprocal arrangement. Mr. Cooper said that he is an advocate for seeking other solutions, such as expanded marketing and outreach of MLC library services; but he acknowledged that this effort may have little effect, given the somewhat spurious nature of County Library's circulation figures.

The Library will hold an adult reading program for the first time this summer. It will run concurrently with the children's and teens' reading programs.

We have two bids for refinishing the wooden window sills throughout the building, which was not included in the original scope of work for the renovation. The lower of the two bids is for \$4,520. Mr. Cooper asked whether the Board wanted to proceed with this work. Ms. Deleste moved that we hire Wood Refinishing by Sue Wheeler to refinish the window sills; Mr. Marshall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cooper will be on vacation the week of May 20-24.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

Mr. Cooper said he is working on a State Library grant that will pay the majority of the bill to replace 13 computers in the building—7 used for public Internet access, and 6 used for the library catalog.

Building and Grounds

There was no report from this committee.

Finance

Mr. Herdler reviewed the financial report and disbursements for April, 2013. The total bills for the month were just about on budget. If we finish the fiscal year with no major unexpected expenses, we should be just a bit under budget for the fiscal year, and have a fund balance of nearly one year's total operating revenue. Mr. Kuc moved to accept the financial report as presented, Mr. Ruger seconded, and the report was approved.

Mr. Herdler noted that in the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget, one of the highest percentage increases was in the pension plan (36% increase). He believes the

Library Board needs to have better control over the future of its pension plan. While LAGERS, the plan the City proposes moving to, is very good for employees, it is more of a liability for employers, and thus for tax payers. He is particularly concerned that the City can revise its base rate within the plan in future years, and the library would have to follow suit. He wants the Board to at least take a vote approving the plan. Some trustees voiced the concern that they don't know enough about the plan to approve or disapprove it. There was also the concern that if they do not move to the LAGERS system with the City, the time frame is very short to seek out alternatives. (The City proposes instituting the change at the July 1 fiscal year.) The concern was also expressed that since Library employees had already been asked their opinion about the change, and had approved it by a large margin, the Board might be breaking faith with the staff by disapproving it. Mr. Herdler is seeking more information prior to next month's board meeting.

Human Resource

Ms. Deleste moved that, pursuant to Missouri Revised Statutes 610.021, paragraph 13, the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter; Mr. Ruger seconded, and the votes were:

Reedy: AYE Deleste: AYE Ruger: AYE Esserman: AYE Marshall: AYE
Herdler: AYE Brenne: AYE KUC: AYE

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

The Board discussed the draft FY 2013-2014 Budget. Ms. Deleste moved to accept the budget as written, Mr. Ruger seconded, and the budget was approved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, June 19 at 7 p.m.