



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
November 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2013. President Nancy Marshall presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Peter Ruger, Jackie Brenne, Bob Herdler, Bill Kuc, Joan Esserman, and Nicole Chaput; and City Council Liaison Debi Salberg. Absent: Trustee Bethany Curtis

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the October 16, 2013 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Ms. Marshall reported that she had attended the Missouri Author Expo sponsored on November 8th by the Friends of the Library. She said it was a great event, well managed.

Ms. Marshall showed the proposal for landscaping services which SWT Landscaping had prepared in response to the Bronners' donation offer. She noted that the donation needs to go to the Friends, since they are a 501(c)(3) organization; therefore the proposal should be edited so the Friends sign it, not the library, even though the library board should decide whether the proposal was acceptable. Mr. Ruger moved to approve the proposal, Mr. Kuc seconded, and the proposal was approved.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper presented the annual report for 2012-2013. He suggested trustees could read it between now and the next board meeting, and bring their questions about it then.

Mr. Herdler expressed concern about usage of St. Louis County Library by Webster Groves residents, as noted in the librarian's written report. Trustees discussed the

issue, suggesting solutions, even discussing whether it was time to withdraw from the agreement. Mr. Cooper noted that the directors of the MLC are still working to call a meeting of all the directors involved in the regional reciprocal agreement, to see if some more workable arrangement can be agreed upon.

Mr. Cooper noted that the library Staff In-service day would be on December 18th. The staff holiday banquet would follow. All trustees are welcome to attend.

An upcoming program proposed by Teen Librarian Emily Pedersen is a Family Night Out. Parents would be invited to bring their children to the library to be babysat by members of the library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB), while they take a night out to shop, see a movie, or whatever. The board considered whether there might be liability issues. They suggested it would be a good idea if members of the TAB got babysitter certification such as they offer at the YMCA.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

There was no report from this committee.

Building and Grounds

There was no report from this committee.

Finance

Mr. Herdler reviewed the financial report and disbursements for October, 2013. Mr. Reedy moved to accept the report as presented, Mr. Kuc seconded, and the financial report was approved.

There were questions about our payment of an unemployment claim. Do we not maintain unemployment insurance, and should that not cover this claim? Mr. Cooper said he would investigate further.

Human Resource

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

Mr. Cooper mentioned that the question had come up among public librarians whether their ban on smoking in their buildings would also apply to e-cigarettes. It has not been an issued thus far at Webster Groves Public, but it is something to consider. The trustees agreed that a ban on smoking applied to e-cigarettes, and the library's Code of Conduct should be revised to reflect that.

Old Business

Mr. Ruger moved that, pursuant to RSMo 610.021, p. 1, the Board go into closed session to discuss a legal matter. Ms. Chaput seconded. The votes were:

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

Ms. Esserman moved to return to open session, Ms. Chaput seconded, and the meeting was reopened.

Mr. Reedy described the ongoing negotiations with Travelers Insurance, Frederick Construction and Powers Bowersox Associates. Frederick has asked for arbitration in the dispute; Travelers is still fighting all claims. We believe we still have significant money due to us from Travelers, mostly money paid or still owed to Powers Bowersox and KAI. The first court date in the matter will be December 14.

New Business

Mr. Ruger, in his capacity as chair of the policy committee, is going to review the library's By-Laws, which have seen no revisions for a few years. He asked Ms. Chaput to work on this with him. He also intends to involve the students of the Non-profit Law Clinic at Washington University in drafting new by-laws.

The trustees discussed the matter of the gap in library donations to employee retirement plans which occurred between July and October, pending approval of the library's new plan with LAGERS. Mr. Herdler noted that what employees suffered is a gap in retirement benefits, not compensation. Since the library's old match to employees' 401 (a) accounts was 5.5%, and the new match to their LAGERS account is much higher—7.6%, the crossover would occur within this fiscal year, probably around March. But if there needs to be some remuneration of the missed benefit, he suggested we work towards having our own 457 plan document. Employees who wanted could sign up to add their 4% to their 457 accounts and the library could match them. Having our own plan document would be important going forward, as we could set our own plan parameters.

Mr. Ruger suggested that we hold a special meeting sometime soon, at which we can focus on these complicated issues. Mr. Cooper said he would work on arranging that meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, January 15 at 7 p.m.