



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
February 19, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. President Nancy Marshall presided, and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bethany Curtis, Peter Ruger, Tom Reedy, Bill Kuc, Jackie Brenne, Nicole Chaput and Bob Herdler, and City Council Liaison Debi Salberg. Absent: Trustee Joan Esserman.

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the January 15, 2014 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence

President's Report

Ms. Marshall reported on meeting with Jay Wohlschlaeger of SWT landscaping to preview proposed plans for a reading garden outside the library. Mr. Wohlschlaeger presented two concepts to members of the Building & Grounds Committee, donor Eric Bronner, and Friends Group President Debbie Ladd. His next step is to meet with library staff to get a better idea of what kind of programming might be done in the area. Ms. Marshall will let trustees know when another meeting is scheduled to look at further refinements in the plans.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper distributed copies of the auditor's final report. The library has already contacted the CPA firm that has been advising them on financial matters for a few years to get help in handling the material weaknesses cited in the report, though there will likely be no progress on this until after the busy tax season.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

Mr. Cooper reported that the Website Planning Committee met with Adam Kellogg, the website designer for the MLC. He has estimated a price of \$5-7,000 to produce a WordPress based site for the library, especially if the library can find an already existing template that has most or all of the plug-ins we would need. A WordPress website would be more dynamic and easier for staff to use than our old site. Mr. Cooper plans to write a grant proposal to fund this work, though the applicable grant is probably not offered again until summer 2014.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Reedy reported on the progress of the legal proceedings against Frederick Construction and Traveler's Insurance. The arbitration proceedings should start sometime in the next week or two. In the meantime, our attorney, Craig Smith, has left Polsinelli, Shughart to start his own firm, and requested approval to take our files with him and continue as our attorney in these matters. Mr. Reedy moved to retain Mr. Smith and transfer the files, Ms. Marshall seconded, and the motion carried. Mr. Cooper will send the official letter to notify Mr. Smith.

Finance

Mr. Herdler reviewed the financial report and disbursements for January, 2014. Since we have started the new format of e-mailing board packets to trustees rather than mailing hard copies, it is suggested that in future the treasurer make the budget presentation using AV equipment available in the Meeting Room. Mr. Herdler asked trustees what kind of presentation they would like to see, and it was generally agreed that it should be no more than currently covered. Mr. Reedy moved to approve the financial report as presented, Ms. Chaput seconded, and the report was approved.

Human Resource

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

Mr. Ruger reported that the Policy Committee would hold a brief meeting after tonight's Board Meeting to begin discussion of revising the Board's By-Laws and Operating Policy.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Trustees discussed revisions to the FY 2013-2014 Operating Budget, but it was agreed that we should wait until we had seen the February 2014 tax revenue report before finalizing anything.

Trustees discussed the insurance renewal proposal from C. J. Thomas Company. They agreed to accept the revision to the property insurance that lowered the premium but raised our per-incident deductible to \$1,000.

Mr. Cooper said he would like to take steps to set up an art gallery for temporary displays in the hallway leading to the Meeting Room. He wants to ask the Friends for help in financing this project. Trustees agreed it was a good idea. Mr. Cooper also noted that while we have works by many local and regional artists in our collection, we do not have a painting by Marilynne Bradley, one of our best-known local artists. He would like to ask her to donate a painting. Trustees also thought this would be a good idea at this time.

Adjournment

Mr. Reedy moved to adjourn, Ms. Chaput seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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