



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Trustees  
Webster Groves Public Library  
April 16, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. President Nancy Marshall presided, and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Nicole Chaput, Joan Esserman, Bill Kuc, Tom Reedy, Pete Ruger, Bethany Curtis and Bob Herdler, and law students Savina Nikolova and Ty Holden. Absent: City Council Liaison Debi Salberg and Trustee Jackie Brenne.

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the March 19, 2014 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

There was no president's report.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper said that the library had received a donation of two paintings by Marilynne Bradley, and showed trustees one of them.

Advanced Planning

Ms. Chaput asked Mr. Cooper to let her know the members of the Advance Planning Committee, so she could arrange a meeting to begin discussing Strategic Planning.

Automation/Systems

There was no report from this committee.

Building and Grounds

Trustees reviewed bids for replacing the Meeting Room roof. One bid was for restoring slate tiles, which would run about \$40,000. The other was for shingles, which would be about \$10,000 to \$18,000, depending on whether a new roof deck would be needed. Since the front part of the building had long since had its slate roof replaced with shingles (even before the present renovation), there was not much interest in spending the money to replace slate on this part. Mr. Cooper was asked to find out a) the expected lifetime of the proposed shingles, and b) whether it is legal to spend bond funds for this project not included in the original scope of work.

Ms. Marshall reported on meeting with Eric Bronner and Friends Board president Debbie Ladd about the landscaping plans. There is general agreement that at this point, we would like to see the landscaping around the front and west side of the building redone, and some version of the work on the southwest corner (Lockwood and Orchard). We will pursue having SWT revise those plans, and pursue funding options, to include Mr. Bronner's ongoing donations and Friends donations. Mr. Cooper will also investigate whether bond funds can be used to augment the budget for this work.

#### Finance

Mr. Herdler reviewed the financial report and disbursements for March, 2014. He noted that at our present rate of monthly expenditure, we would likely enter into deficit spending of about \$45,000 by the end of this fiscal year. This would still leave us enough reserve funds to cover library operations until tax revenue again started coming in around December 2014.

He expressed his ongoing concern over the amount of revenue going out to St. Louis County Library. He still believes there should be a better way to handle providing access to County Library materials to Webster Groves residents, without maintaining this open-ended and rapidly growing liability. He suggested that we discuss the matter before sending another payment to County Library.

Mr. Ruger moved to accept the finance report as presented, Ms. Curtis seconded, and the report was approved.

#### Human Resource

There was no report from this committee.

#### Policy

Law students Ty Holden and Savina Nikolova reviewed their draft revisions of the library's by-laws and operating policy. Trustees will review the changes and vote on the drafts at next month's meeting.

#### Old Business

There was no old business.

#### New Business

There was no new business.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Reedy moved to adjourn, Ms. Esserman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m.