



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

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

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

Citizen and Library patron Paul Burke addressed the board, expressing considerable frustration and anger that we still had a reciprocal agreement with St. Louis County Library that allows them to 'pirate' funds from Webster Groves Public Library. He believes the arrangement to be ill-conceived, and long overdue for cancellation. He further lamented the increased programming and enhanced collections that are not being undertaken because the funds for them are being funneled to St. Louis County Library to pay for usage by a relative handful of users.

Minutes of the October 15, 2014 Meeting

Ms. Curtis moved to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. Ruger seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Ms. Marshall reported that the landscaping is basically completed. There will be a walk-through inspection tomorrow morning.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper reported that the library had just been given a donation of \$13,000 from the estate of long-time library patron Mary Peyton. This is the first and larger payment from the estate. We should receive a second check once Ms. Peyton's life insurance payment clears probate.

Advanced Planning

Ms. Chaput reported that the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will take place on December 10. An RFP has been issued to several consultants for a community survey. When we have an idea of the cost, the Board will need to pass a resolution voting to pay for the survey from reserve funds, since it's not a budgeted item.

Automation/Systems

No report from this committee.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Cooper reported that the plastering work for the Meeting Room has been ordered, but can't happen until the wallcovering is removed. We are waiting to hear from Karl Painting about what that will cost.

Finance

Mr. Herdler presented the budget report for October 2014. He noted that our revenue months are coming up, and explained to new trustees both the flow and expenditure of tax funds in the library's fiscal year, and our past history of needing to borrow money to cover tax anticipation. This is the reason it is crucial to work to retain a strong reserve fund.

Ms. Esserman moved to accept the financial report as presented, Ms. Curtis seconded, and the report was accepted.

Human Resource

There was no report from this committee. Mr. Cooper said he would outline where things stand regarding progress on the new organization chart, and send it to members of the Human Resource Committee. They could then decide about whether a meeting is required to discuss.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Old Business

The board discussed Mr. Burke's comments. It was decided that any decision needed to be based on some due diligence. While that may not mean waiting until the full Strategic Planning process is completed, there would at least need to be a public engagement meeting. The date of January 21, just before the January Board Meeting, was suggested. Mr. Cooper will make sure that this date works and let board members know soon. Another meeting will be required prior to the public engagement meeting to discuss questions to be asked, who will be our moderators, et cetera.

New Business

Mr. Cooper presented the 2013-2014 Annual Report. He suggested the trustees could read it and bring any questions to the next board meeting.

The Library's Staff In-service Day will be on December 10. The Library will be closed that day. Trustees are invited to come around 1 p.m. to share our annual holiday buffet.

Webster Groves Recreation Center used to offer free memberships to Library staff members, but they ceased doing so several years ago. Currently, Library staff members don't even enjoy reduced membership rates. Mr. Cooper would like to take up this matter again with the City and see if we could work out a way to reinstate this benefit. It was suggested that Councilmember Mueller would be the best person to speak with first.

The Webster Groves Awards of Excellence presentation will take place at Hawken House on December 4th. Since the library has applied for the award, it would be nice if we were represented there, but Mr. Cooper will be on vacation at that time. Mr. Herdler said he would attend.

Adjournment

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

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