



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
March 25, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. President Nancy Marshall presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Jackie Brenne, Bill Kuc, Peter Ruger, Bob Herdler, Joan Esserman, Nicole Chaput, Bethany Curtis, and Andrew Rushing, City Council Liaison Greg Mueller, library staff members Paige Shaw and Tina Lombardi, and Webster-Kirkwood Times reporter Mary Shapiro.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the February 18, 2015 Meeting

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

Correspondence

Mr. Cooper read three e-mails he had received from Webster Groves residents concerning the question of withdrawing from the reciprocal lending arrangement with St. Louis County Library:

From Stephanie Ackerman, who seldom uses the Webster Groves Public Library because she believes it and the Municipal Library Consortium 'are not as good for me as the St. Louis County Library System.'

From Shari Kern, who believes that the small percent of patrons served by the arrangement does not justify the large cost. She stated that, 'My experience with the Webster Library has been very positive.'

From Eugene Morse, who believes that gaining access to the vast resources of St. Louis County Library for all Webster Groves residents is a bargain at only \$27,000 per year, and urges us not to lose it.

Ms. Marshall read a letter she had received from Webster Groves resident Ed Giselmeyer, who cited several reasons for using County Library—especially for residents on the south side of town who live closer to County's Oak Bend Branch. He

wondered if a merger of the two systems, which have very similar tax rates, would be a better solution.

President's Report

There was no president's report

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper noted that a book signing was being planned for April 24th to introduce the book *Images of America: Webster Groves*.

There seems to be some progress in getting Governor Nixon's office and Missouri legislators to pay attention to librarians' demands to release withheld library funding. Currently the Governor is withholding 100% of state funding for libraries.

Advanced Planning

Ms. Chaput reported that the Strategic Planning Committee did not have their monthly March meeting because they first need to meet with people from ETC Institute to talk about arrangements for the community survey. They plan to meet soon to discuss that.

Automation/Systems

Ms. Esserman and Ms. Curtis attended a vendor demonstration of a new ILS system for the Municipal Library Consortium on March 10th. They commented on some of the notable points of the system.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Marshall reported that the Friends are likely planning to pay the remaining cost for the second phase of landscaping. She wants to meet soon with SWT Landscaping, Brad Furfaro, and the Building and Grounds Committee to finalize those plans.

Finance

Mr. Herdler reported that given current income and expenses, we would end this fiscal year with about \$550,000 in reserves, which should provide enough revenue to get through until December/January, when new tax funds start coming in. He reviewed several bills of note from February.

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

Human Resource

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

Mr. Ruger recapped the conversation about St. Louis County reciprocity up to this point. He talked about a letter he had received from County Library Director Kristen Sorth, which was made available to trustees.

Ms. Marshall invited trustees to offer further thoughts or comments on the issue, and to note whether they were ready to vote at this time. Her own main concern was with whether students who attend Webster Groves schools but do not necessarily live in Webster Groves would be able to use the library. Mr. Cooper said there had always been a library policy covering this.

Mr. Rushing said he had never been comfortable with the lack of transparency in the fees: that we just get a number and are asked to write a check, with no way to verify the charges. He was ready to vote.

Mr. Herdler said he was ready to vote.

Ms. Brenne said she was ready to vote.

Ms. Curtis said she believed the collections of Webster Groves Public Library and the Consortium were good, and in the instances where patrons wanted items we did not have, inter-library loan was still free. She was ready to vote.

Ms. Chaput said she believes the reciprocal arrangement is an important feature of our service, and likes the idea of open access across the County. While she understands that the fees are too high, she believes that given time, a campaign of education combined with more negotiation with the County Library board may lead to a lesser charge to Webster Groves PL.

Old Business

Mr. Ruger moved to terminate our reciprocal lending contract with St. Louis County Library. Ms. Brenne seconded. The votes were as follows:

AYE: Ruger, Brenne, Marshall, Herdler, Kuc, Esserman, Curtis, Rushing

NAY: Chaput

Mr. Cooper noted that the Policy Committee would have to meet soon to discuss arrangements for implementing the change. Mr. Ruger will seek to convene the Committee soon.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Ms. Chaput moved to adjourn, Ms. Curtis seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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