



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Trustees  
Webster Groves Public Library  
May 20, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. President Nancy Marshall presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bill Kuc, Pete Ruger, Bethany Curtis, Jackie Brenne, Joan Esserman, Bob Herdler, and Nicole Chaput, City Council Liaison Greg Mueller, and newly appointed trustee Justin Hauke. Absent: Trustee Andrew Rushing.

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the April 15, 2015 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 asked for nominations for officers for 2015-2016. The slate to be voted on in will be:

Nancy Marshall—President

Bill Kuc—Vice President

Andrew Rushing—Secretary/Treasurer

Ms. Esserman will remain as Chair of Automation Committee, Mr. Ruger will remain as Chair of Policy Committee, Mr. Kuc will remain as Chair of Human Resources Committee, Ms. Chaput will remain as Chair of Advanced Planning Committee, and Ms. Marshall as Chair of Building and Grounds Committee. As the Treasurer is traditionally Chair of the Finance Committee, that is still to be decided.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper reported that we are still awaiting a final decision in the arbitration re: Frederich Construction, Inc. In the meantime, Craig Smith has asked the Court to set

a settlement conference to put pressure on Travelers to settle the case. The Board needs to consider the importance of pursuing this next phase in the legal proceedings. Ms. Chaput asked how much money we are looking at in any prospective additional settlement from Traveler's. Mr. Cooper will find that figure and let the Board know.

We recently received a reimbursement check for \$10,000 from MoreNet, our state-funded Internet service provider, money made available when Governor Nixon finally released some of the money which he had withheld from state appropriations for public libraries.

We also got news that disputed property tax funds would soon be disbursed by the County. We expect about \$40,000 from this.

#### Advanced Planning

Ms. Chaput reported that a subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Committee met with Ron Vine of ETC Institute to begin planning our upcoming community survey. Next the whole Committee met to review and make further suggestions for questions or areas that should be addressed in the survey. That work will soon go to Ron Vine at ETC and he will refine the survey questions. Once he has that done, he projects a fairly short time before the actual surveying can be completed.

#### Automation/Systems

No report from this committee.

#### Building and Grounds

Ms. Marshall, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Kuc met with Brad Furfaro from Furfaro Landscaping and Jay Wohlschlaeger from SWT Design to discuss details of the second phase of the landscaping project. The next step is to present the plan to the City to see if everything meets with codes. The hope is that this work can be ready for completion sometime in the early autumn.

#### Finance

Mr. Herdler reviewed the financial report for April, 2015. He said that a projected reserve of about \$540,000 at the end of this fiscal year should be sufficient to take us through December, when property tax bills go out again.

#### Human Resource

Mr. Kuc moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. Chaput seconded, and the meeting was closed.

#### Policy

For the benefit of Mr. Hauke, Mr. Ruger reviewed the recent activity of the Policy Committee in ending the reciprocity contract with St. Louis County Library.

#### Old Business

There was no old business.

### New Business

Mr. Cooper noted that the renewal of our Director's & Officers' Liability Insurance with Cincinnati Insurance is about \$50 more than last year—a much smaller increase than anticipated.

The draft FY 2015-2016 budget was presented. While the operating expense is actually about \$9500 less than last year's budget, any reasonable projection of revenue still leaves it about \$62,000 below projected expenses. Trustees questioned whether this trend could be stopped. Mr. Cooper believes that given a number of factors—such as the end of large payments to St. Louis County Library, and the anticipated upcoming retirements of a few full-time employees who will not be replaced—future budgeted expenses will once again come into line with revenue. Mr. Herdler moved to approve the draft budget, Mr. Kuc seconded, and the budget was approved.

Mr. Ruger moved that the Board officially recognize the work of Mr. Herdler as its treasurer over the last nine years. He stated that of the many boards he has served on, he had not seen budget reporting as thoughtful, thorough and complete as Mr. Herdler's. His expertise has been of great help to the Webster Groves Public Library Board, and will be sorely missed. Ms. Marshall seconded the motion, and the vote of recognition was unanimous.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at 7 p.m.