



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Trustees  
Webster Groves Public Library  
March 15, 2017

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. President Nancy Marshall presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Elliot Graf, Bethany Curtis, Bill Kuc, Andrew Rushing, Bob Hart, Justine Hauke, and City Council Liaison Toni Hunt. Absent: Trustees Joan Esserman and Nicole Chaput.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the March 15, 2017 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Ms. Marshall noted that the Friends of the Library had mailed out their annual membership brochures, and urged trustees to join or renew.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper said that the weekend's program of Brazilian music was very good and very well attended. He said that the library had processed its first several passport applications.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

There was no report from this committee.

Building and Grounds

There was no report from this committee.

### Finance

Mr. Rushing reviewed the February financial report, noting that we are still over budget, but that being finished with 3 payroll months should even things out some. He is still hopeful that the library's bookkeeper can assemble a monthly budget report that takes into account large once a year payments, 3-payroll months, and other things that explain ups and downs in the budget cycle. Ms. Curtis moved to accept the financial report, Mr. Kuc seconded, and the report was accepted.

### Human Resource

Mr. Kuc explained that even though the City is asking for a tax levy increase to enhance its pension plan, this does not affect the library. We are on a separate account with LAGERS, and our rate will remain the same even if the City's increases.

### Policy

There was no report from this committee.

### Old Business

A set of budget adjustments was proposed.

Reduce amounts in these budget lines—

Adult books:	\$2,000
Juvenile books:	\$2,000
Gas:	\$1,000
Conferences:	\$ 500
Salaried payroll:	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$10,500

Add to these budget lines—

Water:	\$2,000
Sewer:	\$2,000
Landscaping:	\$ 800
Equipment:	\$1,000
Maint./Repair	\$4,700

Ms. Curtis moved to accept the proposed budget adjustments, Mr. Rushing seconded, and the motion passed, with Mr. Hauke voting no. He cited his discomfort with seeing money taken from Adult and Juvenile books categories, which are very basic services, to shore up budget shortfalls. He had several questions about overages in Maintenance and Landscaping, and why money could not be taken from, for instance, Clerical Supplies.

The discussion of Maintenance Items was deferred until such time as it seems that money is available to address these issues.

### New Business

Mr. Cooper explained that since the library's levy increase in 2009, we have set aside \$450,000 every year for debt service, this being an estimate of how much nine

cents worth of the levy brings in each year. The library's previous bond counsel had expressed the opinion that the library has some leverage in how these funds are spent, since the library purchased Certificates of Participation rather than General Obligation Bonds. He would like to pursue this question, and see if the standard amount of \$450,000 must be deposited each year, or whether some portion of it could be used to enhance operating revenues, thus shoring up the annual budget. This would involve resolving two questions: a) whether indeed the library can legally use a portion of these proceeds for operating revenue, and b) whether the debt service account is financially strong enough to continue biannual payments with slightly reduced annual deposits. Trustees agreed that he should pursue this.

There was also a discussion of whether we should invest some of the funds we have on deposit with UMB, our trustee bank. Mr. Cooper will arrange a meeting between the Finance Committee and Brian Krippner, our representative at UMB.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Kuc moved to adjourn, Ms. Curtis seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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