



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
January 17, 2018

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. President Nancy Marshall presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bob Hart, Justin Hauke, Elliot Graf, Joan Esserman, Andrew Rushing, Bill Kuc, and Bethany Curtis, and City Council Liaison Toni Hunt. Absent: Trustee Nicole Chaput.

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the November 15, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Hauke 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 noted that MLC partner Brentwood Public Library has a new director, Gina Gibbons.

He also reported that within the past week both St. Charles City/County Library and St. Louis Public Library have become signatories to new reciprocal agreements, eliminating fees for borrowing across the region.

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 noted that, as expected, with December being a 3-payroll month, our budget evened out in the past few months. We are still under budget for the fiscal year, but not by as much. Mr. Graf moved to accept the financial report as presented, Ms. Esserman seconded, and the report was approved.

Human Resource

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Old Business

Mr. Cooper reported on his discussion with Children's Librarian Michelle Haffer concerning recent public comments about the diversity of our juvenile collections. Ms. Haffer reported that the Children's Room has always stressed diversity in its collections and services, and made these points: 1) the comments about diversity focused on the 'We Stories' collection, which is just one measure among many that can be considered, 2) that the We Stories collection was not regularly updated, and there were many new books coming out which their list does not reflect, and 3) that our focus is on a more holistic view of diversity, including differently-abled children, gender identity, and other things as well as race—which is the sole focus of We Stories. The Children's Room is working with a list of community partners to create not only collections, but programs and services that reflect a focus on diversity, though Ms. Haffer admits that, with all the other duties in the Children's Room, it will be a 'slow, but steady process.'

Mr. Cooper reported that he has asked Brian Krippner, our representative from UMB Bank, to visit the Board Meeting in February to answer any questions trustees may have about the process of servicing our bonded debt. He urged trustees to get any specific questions they may have to him so Brian can prepare answers in advance.

New Business

Mr. Cooper noted that it seems to have been a practice in the past for the Board of Trustees to periodically draft a thank you letter to the Board of the Friends of the Library, thanking them for their ongoing efforts in support of the library's mission. He will work on a draft of such a letter for this year, for the board to sign at the next meeting.

There was a discussion of the audited financial statement for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Adjournment

Mr. Rushing moved to adjourn, Mr. Hart seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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