



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
February 20, 2019

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. President Nancy Marshall presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bob Hart, Elliot Graf, Joan Esserman, Tess Thompson, Justin Hauke, and Andrew Rushing, and City Council Liaison Bud Bellomo. Absent: Trustee Bethany Curtis.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the January 16, 2019 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Ms. Marshall introduced new trustee, Jenine Harris.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper said that he had spoken today with Bill Stancil of the Historic Preservation Commission, and the project to install commemorative 'trees' in the lobby is moving forward.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

There was no report from this committee.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Cooper spoke about the warranty on the roof. He will be meeting with people from the company to determine if the part that leaks is the warrantied part.

Finance

Mr. Rushing reviewed the financial reports for 2019. The library is about \$3,000 over budget. Mr. Cooper reviewed the portions of the budget that there questions about at last month's meeting, including automation and telephone expenses.

Mr. Hauke moved to accept the report as presented, Mr. Graf seconded, and the report was approved.

Human Resource

Mr. Cooper reviewed the plan to implement the new minimum wage. He believes that with current revenue the expense is bearable; but there is the question of how it will impact the personnel budget in successive years. The state-mandated minimum wage is optional for governmental bodies.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Old Business

Mr. Rushing asked if Mr. Cooper had questions about the audit answered. Mr. Cooper said he had contacted Hochschild, Bloom but gotten no response. He will try again and report at the next meeting.

New Business

Mr. Cooper spoke about a problem being experienced by some libraries, though it has not happened here. People bring animals into libraries, asserting that they are 'comfort animals' or 'emotional support animals.' While all libraries are subject to the ADA's requirement to recognize and allow service animals, the definition of what is a service animal is clear and precise: it is limited to dogs. Mr. Cooper's question was whether we think we need a policy to address this? Trustees thought that it is best to wait until we actually have the problem to address it with a comprehensive policy statement. Until then, good staff training in how to deal with a situation is advised.

Adjournment

Ms. Esserman moved to adjourn, Ms. Marshall 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, March 20 at 7 p.m.