



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
April 15, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. This meeting was held via Zoom, during the Covid-19 pandemic closure. President Nancy Marshall presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Jenine Harris, Sherry Taylor, Leanne Waugh, Joan Esserman, Bethany Curtis, Tess Thompson, Justin Hauke and City Council Liaison Bud Bellomo. Absent: Trustee Andrew Rushing.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Meeting and April 7 Special Meeting

Ms. Thompson moved to accept the minutes as presented, Ms. Taylor 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 reported that the directors of the MLC libraries will meet Friday, April 17 to begin planning for when and how to reopen libraries. There is general agreement among the member libraries that it should be a coordinated effort. He will report any key decisions.

Adult Services and Children's Services are planning how to provide Summer Reading Club this summer: we have long used an online registration system; whether we will be able to provide books for reading during the program is up in the air at this time.

Working on the budget for FY 2020-2021, it looks like this year's tax revenues have been strong, which is good, since there have been a few hits to other revenue

sources, including passport fees during our extended closure, and state aid, which we hear will be close to non-existent in the upcoming year.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

There was no report from this committee.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Marshall reported speaking with Steve Calhoun regarding a sign. Mr. Cooper hopes he can hear an estimate of cost for that before completing a draft budget.

Finance

Mr. Hauke reviewed the financial reports for February and March 2020. We are currently about \$15,000 under budget, with a few line items—telephone and adult audio—looking overspent. Ms. Marshall moved to approve the report, Mr. Hauke 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

There was a discussion of Webster Groves Public Library going fine free. Given the present climate, with strains on a few other revenue sources, most support for this measure has dissipated. Ms. Esserman asked what is our actual reason for doing it. If the main reason we are doing it is because all the other libraries in the region are doing it, that fails to constitute good fiscal policy. Most trustees agreed, and the discussion was tabled at this time, though it may be revisited at a later date.

Ms. Waugh suggested that in the meantime, it would be a good idea to cease having Unique Management send letters about credit reporting to patrons with overdue items. Ms. Thompson moved to discontinue the credit reporting service of six months, Ms. Waugh seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Cooper will contact Unique Management.

New Business

Mr. Hauke moved to approve Resolution 2020-02 (attached), making adjustment to the FY 19-20 operating budget. Ms. Esserman seconded, and the resolution was approved.

Trustees with terms expiring in May, 2020 are Marshall, Harris, and Rushing. Ms. Marshall has served three full terms and is ineligible to serve again; Ms. Harris plans to renew for another term; Mr. Rushing was absent, and Mr. Cooper will notify him.

Ms. Esserman nominated Mr. Hauke to be president. There were no other nominations at this time, so nominations and elections will have to be handled at the May meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Curtis moved to adjourn, Ms. Marshall seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m.