



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
June 17, 2020 (During COVID-19 Closure)

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. The meeting was held via Zoom conferencing. Vice-President Joan Esserman presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bethany Curtis, Jenine Harris, Justin Hauke, Sherry Taylor, Tess Thompson, and Leanne Waugh, and City Council Liaison Pam Bliss.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the May 20, 2020 Meeting

The minutes were approved as written.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

There was no president's report.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper reported on his annual budget presentation to the City Council.

He reported that given the current widespread protests and attention to racial justice, some staff members have asked whether the library should make a statement of support. There was discussion which brought up several key points. For one, as a tax supported entity, the library traditionally refrains from making political statements. If we want to be of help, we should focus on what we do, which is make information and resources available that help people learn about and understand the issues, and put effort into publicizing them. Also, this might be a good time to look into staff training and knowledge of those resources, so they can better assist library users in finding them.

Councilmember Bliss did report that Mayor Welch recently put out a statement of her own in support of racial justice.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee.

Automation/Systems

There was no report from this committee. Ms. Esserman asked if there could be a report of usage of our Website. Mr. Cooper will work on that.

Building and Grounds

We have contacted Steve Calhoun of ASI Signage to continue the process of getting a sign for the front lawn. He is out of office, but we expect a response soon.

Finance

Mr. Hauke reviewed the financial report for May 2020. Ms. Curtis moved to approve the report, Ms. Taylor seconded, and the report was approved.

Human Resource

Mr. Cooper said he would send his goals report to the full board.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Old Business

There was one officer nomination for fiscal year 2020-2021 still to consider, Justin Hauke for president. After discussion, Ms. Curtis nominated Ms. Esserman for treasurer and Ms. Thompson seconded. Ms. Taylor nominated Ms. Curtis for Vice-president and Ms. Harris seconded. This slate of officers was approved:

Justin Hauke:	President
Bethany Curtis:	Vice-president
Joan Esserman:	Secretary/Treasurer

Ms. Esserman pointed out that committee assignments still needed to be made, and suggested that short biographies from each trustee, noting their skills and experience would be helpful. Mr. Cooper said he would collate and distribute them.

New Business

Mr. Cooper described the process for reporting conflicts of interest to the Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC). He asked if the board would like to continue doing it the way we we have done it for several years now, by approving a resolution that makes Mr. Cooper both the Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer, thereby making it only Mr. Cooper who has to file no conflict of interest paperwork with the MEC. Ms. Curtis moved to continue doing it this way, Ms. Thompson seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Cooper will send around the draft resolution prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Cooper reminded the board that prior to the disruptions of COVID-19 we had been dealing with a question from last year's audit concerning a fixed assets report, hoping that when there is once again a full Finance Committee, we might revisit that. Mr. Hauke commented that since the audit included a breakdown and evaluation of our fixed assets, it was a redundant consideration.

Ms. Bliss told the board that with the new development project being considered for the Kirkham corridor, there was a series of town hall meetings being held, and invited the board members to attend, as they have been lively and informative forums so far.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, July 15 at 7 p.m.