



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
August 19, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. This was the fifth board meeting held via Zoom during the COVID-19 emergency. President Justin Hauke presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bethany Curtis, Joan Esserman, Ed Scholl, Tess Thompson, Leanne Waugh, Janey Worthington, and City Council Liaison Karen Alexander Absent: Trustee Jenine Harris and Sherry Taylor

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the July 15, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Curtis moved to accept the minutes as presented, Ms. Esserman seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

Mr. Cooper said he had received a call earlier to day from a woman who expressed gratitude at the courteous and friendly service she was receiving from our staff.

President's Report

Mr. Hauke introduced the two new trustees, Janey Worthington and Ed Scholl, and our new City Council Liaison Karen Alexander. All three spoke for a moment about their backgrounds.

Librarian's Report

There was no report past the written report.

Advanced Planning

There was no report from this committee. Ms. Esserman, Ms. Worthington, and Ms. Thompson all expressed a wish to work with Ms. Harris on an upcoming strategic planning process.

Automation/Systems

There was no report from this committee.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Curtis reported that Steve Calhoun from ASI Signage is working on a mockup of the proposed sign for the library's front lawn to use in determining the best placement of a sign.

Other projects in the works are exterior painting, replacement of broken storm windows, and repaving porous pavement on the back parking lot.

Finance

Ms. Esserman reviewed the financial report for July 2020. She reported on expenses for COVID-19 measures, which total \$3,590 to date, and on the library's pension plan, LAGERS, which continues to be very financially stable. Mr. Scholl moved to approve the report, Ms. Waugh 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. Scholl said he would like to serve on the Finance Committee, and Ms. Worthington would like to be on the Advanced Planning Committee. Mr. Cooper will redistribute the list of committee assignments.

New Business

Mr. Cooper spoke of the current position of the library in the COVID-19 era. We are still offering curbside-only service, with no patron traffic in the building. Many patrons are using the service. Among staff there is frustration with not being able to offer fuller service, but also nervousness about the persistence of the virus in the population. We will continue to add whatever services we can, with the hope of opening up to patron traffic when we can. Trustees agreed with this course of action, while hoping to see a continued effort to open up auxiliary services and a better course of informing the public of what services are available.

Mr. Cooper also said that both Children's Services and Adult Services had asked about staging some library programming outdoors, since we do have a nice front courtyard and reading garden. The board was enthusiastic about this course of action.

Adjournment

Ms. Curtis moved to adjourn, Ms. Esserman 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, September 16 at 7 p.m.