



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
September 16, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. President Justin Hauke presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Bethany Curtis, Joan Esserman, Jenine Harris, Ed Scholl, Sherry Taylor, Tess Thompson, Leanne Waugh, Janey Worthington, and City Council Liaison Karen Alexander

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Ms. Alexander addressed the board on recent incidents of racial vandalism and intimidation that occurred in Webster Groves, and the City Council's reaction to them. She shared the Council's letter to the community with the board.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the August 19, 2020 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

On behalf of the board, Mr. Hauke congratulated Mr. Cooper on 15 years as director of Webster Groves Public Library.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper reported that the library received one hundred and four copies of a new Webster Groves/Rock Hill/Shrewsbury community poster. The company that produced them gave them to the library for free, and we may sell them as a fundraiser. There were originally 105, but Grafica Fine Arts framed one for us for free.

There is troubling news about an MLC partner, Valley Park Public Library. They have long inhabited a space in City Hall, but the City of Valley Park has decided they

need that space and evicted the library. Their future in a new, much smaller space is uncertain.

Advanced Planning

Ms. Harris has been in touch with the trustees who expressed interest in serving on the committee for a new round of strategic planning, and they will hold their initial meeting Monday, Sep. 21 at 7 p.m.

Automation/Systems

Mr. Cooper offered an orientation to RFID in libraries, its costs, its benefits, and some of the pros and cons of implementing it. This has been a discussion among the MLC libraries, with University City adopting it and Kirkwood expressing strong interest. Mr. Cooper will continue to keep the board informed of the status of discussions.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Curtis reported that we are still awaiting the production of a mockup of the sign for our front lawn, so we can discuss its placement. A bid has been accepted for parking lot repair, but the work has not been scheduled.

Finance

Ms. Esserman reviewed the financial report for August 2020. She noted that with some early expenses we are a little over budget, but it's nothing to be concerned about this early in the fiscal year. Ms. Curtis moved to approve the report, Ms. Waugh seconded, and the report was approved.

Human Resource

Ms. Thompson reported that Mr. Cooper has been reviewing full-time employee goals for the upcoming year; they are largely goals that take into account the present situation, and speak of adapting the usual services and programs to online or other alternate formats.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no discussion of the annual report draft.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Hauke asked how everyone felt about beginning to meet in person again. Several trustees expressed concern that it was too early, and did not accord with current public health concerns. For the time being, the board will continue to meet via Zoom.

Ms. Curtis moved to adjourn, Ms. Waugh 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, October 20 at 7 p.m.