



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
October 21, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. President Justin Hauke presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Jenine Harris, Tess Thompson, Bethany Curtis, Leanne Waugh, Sherry Taylor, Ed Scholl, Janey Worthington, and Joan Esserman.

Call to Order

Ms. Curtis moved to bring the meeting to order, Ms. Taylor seconded, and the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the September 16, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Cooper noted that he had made a few corrections to the minutes. Ms. Worthington moved to approve the minutes as amended, Ms. Curtis 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 told trustees that there has been an uptick in patron dissatisfaction with current practices and policies, such as people wanting more computer time, or to be able to sit and study in the library. He pointed out that we are ahead of most libraries in the area in allowing patrons to come in and browse for books. Mr. Scholl accounted a lot of this to 'COVID fatigue,' and people becoming tired in general of restrictions. Ms. Thompson wondered whether allowing some areas for patrons to study might be safe, since patrons are not making much complaint about masking. It would be safer in a community sense than the same people using restaurants and such where the masking requirements are less stringent. Mr. Cooper said he would think about gradual expanding of some services.

Advanced Planning

Ms. Harris reported that the committee had met to discuss a new round of strategic planning. Since this typically commences with a community survey, she described the discussion of what information was most useful to gather and what would be the emphasis of the survey. A conversation followed in which several trustees wondered if this might be the wrong time to do a survey. Would people have COVID restrictions in mind, and not be thinking about the library's long-term services? There were several suggestions for doing a more modest user survey, perhaps created and disseminated by the library rather than by a hired consultant, and wait until the situation changes before proceeding with a fuller community survey. Ms. Harris will convene her committee again to discuss these options.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Curtis reported that the committee had met to determine the best placement of the sign for the front lawn. Mr. Cooper will speak with Steve Calhoun from ASI Signage about final pricing and a schedule for creating and installing the sign. Ms. Worthington asked if the Friends of the Library had made any commitment to help pay for the sign. Mr. Cooper said they have not been asked about it, but that the Friends had recently asked him for a budget of requested items in the upcoming year.

Finance

Ms. Esserman reviewed the finance report for September 2020, noting especially the breakdown of Friends contributions and the amount paid out for a grant. The grant money, which paid for the library's Charley Cart, will be refunded after the staff files a final report to the State Library near the end of this fiscal year. Ms. Worthington moved to approve the financial report, Ms. Curtis 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 no old business.

New Business

Mr. Cooper asked whether he may close the library on election day, November 3rd. We are a very busy polling place, and with long lines and long wait times, parking will be at a premium, both in our lots and along Orchard Avenue. Ms. Harris moved to close the library on election day, Mr. Scholl seconded, and the motion passed.

Mr. Cooper reported that the process for certifying the security of our credit card machine had become very much more complicated this year. He still plans to confer with people at City Hall about this, but if we do have to meet new security

requirements, it may involve establishing some new policies. In that case he will report to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Waugh asked whether the library had heard any more from an angry patron who was a few weeks ago threatening to contact the entire board with his complaints. But he has not been heard of since that day a few weeks ago.

Adjournment

Ms. Thompson moved to adjourn, Ms. Taylor seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m.