



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Trustees  
Webster Groves Public Library  
June 16, 2021

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

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the May 19, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Curtis asked to correct the May minutes to reflect the absence of Justin Hauke. Ms. Taylor moved to accept the minutes as amended, Dr. Harris seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

As this was our first in-person meeting in many months, Ms. Curtis passed around thank you cards for Nancy Marshall and Joan Esserman for everyone to sign.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper recapped reopening progress on the library's steady reopening. The last major item will be adding in full evening hours, which can be done once a few new staff members are trained—probably later this summer.

He also noted that the MLC will have a booth at the upcoming Tower Grove Pride Fest, which is a welcome sign. The MLC used to have booths at a number of local festivals, but haven't done one in several years.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris hopes to begin the process of conducting a community survey with an eye towards creating a new strategic plan. Mr. Cooper said he has begun the process of

finding companies that can do a survey. They will discuss soon, either in person or via email.

### Building and Grounds

There was no report from this committee.

### Finance

Mr. Scholl said that the library's reserves from last year are very strong, and that with one month yet to go in this fiscal year, we are close to \$34,000 under budget. He noted a few larger expenses listed on the May Disbursements. Ms. Waugh moved to approve the financial report, Ms. Taylor seconded, and the report was approved.

### Human Resources

There was a discussion of vacation accruals for full-time employees. Currently, employees get a maximum of 4 weeks of vacation after 10 years, and never any more. Some employees have asked whether there could be some more vacation hours added after 20 years. Several ideas were floated, and there was discussion of them. Mr. Cooper was asked to research what other libraries are doing. The subject will be revisited at next month's meeting.

### Policy

There was no report from this committee.

### Old Business

Ms. Waugh nominated Ms. Curtis for President and Dr. Thompson for Vice-president. Ms. Curtis seconded Dr. Thompson's nomination as Vice-president, and Dr. Harris seconded Ms. Curtis' nomination for President. Both motions passed. The slate of officers for 2021-2022 is:

President Bethany Curtis  
Vice-president Tess Thompson  
Secretary/Treasurer Ed Scholl

### New Business

Mr. Cooper introduced Reference Librarian Jeraca Fite, who has been in her position for more than a year, but could not come to meet the board until now. Ms. Fite detailed some of the projects she has completed and/or worked on in the past year.

Mr. Cooper asked for board input on the subject of the library's current posture towards requiring masks—both for the public and for staff. He explained that with masking requirements being lifted for vaccinated people, and many stores, etc. no longer requiring masks, it becomes confusing. It is especially a problem for the Children's Room, since no children under 12 are vaccinated. Moreover, about half the staff is ready to cease wearing masks, while the other half is not. The prevailing opinion was that staff should continue to model good behavior by wearing masks, but we should think of a timeline to reassure staff. A suggested timeline might be the

end of the summer, or at least end of summer reading club activities, when so many children are in the library.

Adjournment

Dr. Thompson moved to adjourn, Dr. Harris 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, July 21 at 7 p.m.