



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Trustees  
Webster Groves Public Library  
October 20, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20. President Bethany Curtis presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Ed Scholl, Jenine Harris, Anita Radcliffe, Tess Thompson, Janey Worthington, Sherry Taylor, and Leanne Waugh, and City Council Liaison Karen Alexander. Absent: Trustee Peter Ruger.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the September 15, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Worthington moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Waugh seconded and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Ms. Curtis thanked the trustees for sending their biographies, which she is working on editing and compiling.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper mentioned the date of Christmas this year, which is on a Sunday. He noted that when this happens we customarily take the Monday off as the staff holiday. He suggested we work on a policy formalizing this practice. The Policy Committee will address it.

There was a reoccurrence of the backup of the sewer in the library's basement reported in the director's written report. It was not as severe as the first time, and has been cleaned up. The plumber took a longer time running a camera in the pipes and investigating the cause of the backups. There is hope that it will not recur.

### Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris recapped her committee's work towards a strategic plan. They would like to conduct a series of townhall meetings with residents from different neighborhoods in Webster Groves. In working towards that the committee would like to see a variety of statistics about usage of the library, distribution of card-holders, where people reside whose cards are blocked by fines, etc. She asked if trustees had other ideas of useful statistics. Mr. Cooper will work on assembling the requested statistics, as well as revising the RFP to interested consultants to change it from a community survey model to a townhall meeting model.

### Building and Grounds

Ms. Waugh said that aside from the reported sewer backups, there were no other building issues to report.

### Finance

Ms. Scholl noted that as of September, the library is more than \$2,000 under budget. Our revenues are still under expenditure, but that will correct between December and January, when most of our tax revenue comes in.

Dr. Thompson moved to approve the financial report, Ms. Worthington seconded, and the report was approved.

### Human Resources

There was no report from this committee.

### Policy

There was no report from this committee.

### Friends Report

Ms. Worthington reported that the Friends held their book fair this past weekend, in which they made about \$1,500. Many of the leftover books are being donated to Kirkwood PL or JCCA for their book sales. She has presented them with the idea of supplying incentive prizes for people who attend our focus groups, but they have not made a decision yet.

### City Hall

There was no City Hall report.

### Old Business

There was no old business.

### New Business

Mr. Cooper presented his draft of the Annual Report for fiscal year 2020-2021. There were suggestions for corrections or additions from a few trustees. He will make those changes before printing it up.

There was a discussion of the expanded reciprocal agreements between St. Louis County PL and Jefferson County PL and Scenic Regional Library, and whether Webster Groves PL is interested in pursuing similar agreements along with the other MLC libraries. Some of the MLC partners are very interested, others not at all. Advantages and disadvantages were discussed. Mr. Cooper said he would meet with directors of both of those libraries in December, and try to gather more information.

Adjournment

Ms Waugh moved to adjourn, Mr. Scholl 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 17 at 7 p.m.