



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
January 19, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19. President Bethany Curtis presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Jenine Harris, Anita Radcliffe, Peter Ruger, Ed Scholl, Sherry Taylor, Tess Thompson, Leanne Waugh, and Janey Worthington. Absent: City Council Liaison Karen Alexander.

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the November 17, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Ruger moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Taylor seconded and the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

There was an email from Jenny Dodson-Weihl, a Webster Groves resident who wants to assemble a workgroup to help prevent child sexual abuse in the community. She has been in touch with the School District, and invites the library to send a representative to the group. Mr. Cooper will contact Ms. Dodson-Weihl and offer to be the initial contact for the group.

President's Report

There was no president's report.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper answered a few questions about the status of repairs on the building, particularly the sewer repairs. He said that all was done, and there seemed to be no problems. While insurance covered cleanup of the backups experienced in November, it did not cover the replacement of old, deteriorated pipes that led to the problem.

Mr. Cooper also reported that William 'Bill' Kuc, a former board trustee, had died.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris reported that we have no proposals from consultants to handle the focus groups we plan to do as part of our strategic planning process. Mr. Cooper intends to contact Lisa Richter from Stakeholder Insights, who as late as last week said she planned to submit a proposal.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Waugh had no report, but asked Mr. Cooper to explain the need to enhance the Building & Grounds line in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget. He noted that the overage in that fund began when the bill for the outdoor sign came within this fiscal year rather than last year, as had been planned. Then, with costly repairs to the skylight and the replacement of sewer pipes in the basement and the yard along Orchard Avenue, we find ourselves nearly \$20,000 over spent. Maureen McKenzie, the library's bookkeeper, ran the figures for last year's B&G budget, and found that it will take nearly \$20,000 to finish out the year. Mr. Cooper suggested an enhancement to the Building & Grounds fund of \$40,000. Board Treasurer Ed Scholl spoke of the need for this enhancement, and stated that the library certainly held sufficient funds in reserves.

Ms. Worthington moved to add \$40,000 to the Building & Grounds fund, Ms. Waugh seconded, and the motion passed.

Finance

Mr. Scholl reviewed the financial reports for November and December, 2021. Expenditures are well in line with proposed budget. December saw most of our tax revenue for this fiscal year come in. He said that the library's overall financial picture was very healthy.

Human Resources

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Friends Report

Ms. Worthington said the Friends continue to meet. They are getting new members. They paid for the bicycle repair station, which has been ordered.

City Hall

There was no report for City Hall.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Cooper presented trustees with three documents, all from the American Library Association: The Library Bill of Rights, The Freedom to Read Statement, and Free Access to Libraries for Minors. He also showed them the library's Request for

Reconsideration of Materials form. His reason for doing so was that there have recently been quite a few challenges of materials held by school libraries and public libraries. He wanted the board to understand that he would fight any challenges from self-appointed censors of this public library. Several trustees spoke in favor of that stance.

Ms. Waugh moved to approve a resolution that Webster Groves Public Library subscribes to the principles enumerated in The Library Bill of Rights, The Freedom to Read Statement, and Free Access to Libraries for Minors. Mr. Scholl seconded, and the resolution was approved.

Adjournment

Mr. Scholl moved to adjourn, Dr. Thompson 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, February 16 at 7 p.m.