



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
April 20, 2022

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

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the March 16, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Ruger moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Taylor 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 reminded trustees Sherry Taylor and Leanne Waugh that it is time for them to request reappointment from City Hall.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris said the committee had reviewed preliminary mapping from Stakeholder Insights and had requested further refinements to the maps. As presented, they did not reveal patterns of which neighborhoods had the highest and lowest concentrations of library users, fines, or blocked cards. The company is working on those revisions.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Waugh asked whether there had been further roof leakage in the recent rains, and there had not; and whether the bike repair station would be installed in time for a May 1 dedication—it should be.

Finance

Mr. Scholl reviewed the financial report for March. He noted there had been a mistake by the finance office at city hall; they transferred the bond payment into the checking account twice. That has been resolved. He provided a quick review of how our bond payments are made. March's expenses were pretty typical, with noting else to note. We are still about \$13,000 under budget for the fiscal year, with only three months to go.

Ms. Waugh moved to accept the financial report, Dr. Harris seconded, and the motion was approved.

Human Resources

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Friends Report

Ms. Worthington had emailed the following report of upcoming Friends activities in her absence:

May 1 - Ribbon-cutting for the Bike Repair Station, as part of the Webster Bike Ride that day

May 15 - "Beyond the Page" annual event, this year with Joneal Joplin

May 20 - Friends will provide hospitality for a book signing with Don Corrigan (his latest book is about animals killed on US highways)

(Mr. Cooper noted that this was the previous book Don Corrigan had written. His visit to the library on May 20 will be to present *Amazing Webster Groves*, which is just coming out.)

City Hall

Councilmember Alexander reported that the new mayor, Laura Arnold, and three recently elected councilmembers were sworn in at the last council meeting. With those formalities taken care of, the next meeting would be to appoint members to boards and commissions. She said that some review of how those appointments are made was being discussed.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Ms. Curtis pointed out that her term on the board is at an end, and it is time to elect officers for the upcoming year. She nominated Tess Thompson to be president.

Mr. Scholl said he would accept the nomination to continue as treasurer.

At our next meeting, there needs to be a nomination for vice-president and an election of the slate of officers.

Mr. Cooper addressed the process of writing a budget. For years, there has not been much board input on the budget, because he has been trusted to do it. But with his retirement in the first quarter of 2023, this will be the last budget he will write, and the board may wish to have more input in the process, at least until they are comfortable with letting his successor handle it. He noted several of the priorities that arise in budget planning, such as personnel costs, upcoming building maintenance projects, changes in collections, and service goals spelled out in a new strategic plan.

There was a discussion of changing the age at which a person may sign for their own library card from 18 to 16. Mr. Cooper said this was the direction of many libraries in our area, and our Children's Librarian, Michelle Haffer, and her staff were very much in favor of the move. Several trustees spoke in favor of the move.

Mr. Ruger moved to change the age when a person can sign for a Webster Groves Public Library card from 18 to 16. Ms. Waugh seconded, and the motion passed.

Ms. Waugh asked Mr. Cooper a number of questions related to the process of selecting a new director. He said it is the duty of the board of trustees, and to allow several months for the process. If the board would like, he would be amenable to working a month with the new director.

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

Adjournment

Ms. Taylor 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, May 18 at 7 p.m.