



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Webster Groves Public Library
June 15, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Webster Groves Public Library was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15. Vice-president Tess Thompson presided and Library Director Tom Cooper kept the minutes. Also present: Trustees Ed Scholl, Anita Radcliffe, Sherry Taylor, Janey Worthington, Leanne Waugh, Peter Ruger, and Jenine Harris. Absent: City Council Liaison Laura Arnold.

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the April 20, 2022 Meeting

Ms. Worthington moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ruger 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 said that there had likely been some theft from the mailbox outside the library, resulting in the loss of several passport applications. The staff are pursuing notifying passport applicants who may have been affected, though they are finding the U. S. State Department maddeningly unhelpful in the matter.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris said the committee is waiting on a few more refinements to the maps we ordered, and once that is done we can consider our next steps in a strategic plan.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Waugh inquired whether the bicycle station was being used. Mr. Cooper said it was.

There was a discussion of new carpeting for the Meeting Room, which the Friends of the Library have offered to pay for. Ms. Worthington said they were amenable to paying for more—including perhaps the Children’s Room. Mr. Cooper suggested we get the Meeting Room done and then pursue the rest.

Finance

Mr. Scholl reviewed financial reports for April and May. He said we were overall in great shape, well within our budget and holding significant reserves. He noted that expenses in May were high due to it being a three-payroll month. He also explained our bond payment cycle and the large payment on principal made in March.

Ms. Taylor moved to approve the April and May financial reports, Ms. Worthington seconded, and the reports were approved.

Human Resources

There was no report from this committee, though Dr. Thompson reminded the committee members that they would soon need to meet to discuss Mr. Cooper’s successor as director.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Friends Report

Ms. Worthington reported that the Friends had held some well-attended events this spring. They are planning an event for September to introduce volunteer opportunities to people who expressed a willingness to work with the Friends. They do not hold meetings for the next few months.

City Hall

There was no report from the liaison.

Old Business

Mr. Cooper reminded trustees that after passing a resolution adopting the Freedom to Read statement and allied documents, there had been a discussion of whether the board should do anything more concerning these statements. At the time, Mr. Cooper said he would present the matter on a later agenda.

The sentiment among trustees is that it is important to have adopted the Freedom to Read statement, to demonstrate that the board will back up staff in their efforts to make books, even books deemed controversial in some quarters, available to our users. Mr. Cooper said there would likely be an active Banned Books Week this fall. (It’s September 18 to 24.)

New Business

Mr. Cooper pointed out that during the pandemic, we had paused our use of Unique Management, the company that collects long-overdue accounts for the library. He asked if the board was interested in resuming. They felt they needed more

information to make an informed decision, such as how much loss there is, how many accounts are affected, etc. Mr. Cooper will provide some of that information at the next meeting to further the discussion.

There was also a renewed discussion of whether the library should go fine free, as many other public libraries are doing. Again, the board asked to see some information on how much money is collected in fines, etc. Dr. Harris noted that by the time we discuss it again, we will also have maps to indicate where patrons are most likely to have library fines.

Mr. Scholl reviewed the draft Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. He said the Finance Committee had studied it and approved it. Mr. Ruger moved to approve the budget, Ms. Taylor seconded, and the budget was approved. Mr. Cooper said he would be at the City Council meeting at 7:30 on June 21 to present a public hearing on the library's budget.

Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2022-2023: After the April meeting, we had nominations of Tess Thompson for President and Ed Scholl for Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Scholl nominated Peter Ruger for Vice President.

Ms. Worthington moved that this slate of officers be approved. Ms. Taylor seconded, and the officers were elected.

Adjournment

Ms. Worthington moved to adjourn, Mr. Ruger seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, July 20 at 7 p.m.