



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

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

Call to Order

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

Public Agenda

There was no public agenda.

Minutes of the June 15, 2022 Meeting

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

President's Report

Dr. Thompson introduced new trustee Angelo Austin, who spoke about his experience and his reasons for wanting to serve on the library board.

Librarian's Report

Mr. Cooper mentioned that he had been having trouble with the board group emails, and would try to figure out the problem.

He also said that he had just learned that full-time staff was being charged \$25 per pay period for medical insurance. This was a change he had not been informed of by anyone at City Hall, and consequently had no chance to consider its implication when writing the budget or giving staff raises. He asked the board, since the library has always paid for full-time staff single-payer medical insurance, if he could explore what would be the additional cost to the library of continuing to do the same. The board agreed.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris said that the Planning Committee had received the maps of library usage in Webster Groves, which would help in informing the committee's planning for focus groups. She hoped the maps could be sent to the full board. She also said the committee needed to meet to discuss the focus groups.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Waugh mentioned the recently repaired windows and the ongoing discussion to get the Meeting Room carpet replaced. Mr. Cooper said the Friends still express willingness to pay for the carpet, but he is having trouble getting the carpet company to respond to his calls and emails.

Finance

Mr. Scholl reviewed the fiscal year-end finances. We ended the year having spent a little less than budgeted, with strong reserves. Ms. Waugh moved to approve the financial report, Ms. Taylor seconded, and the report was approved.

Human Resources

There was no report from this committee.

Policy

Ms. Taylor said that the Policy Committee had met just prior to the board meeting to discuss two issues:

First was the library going fine free. The committee agreed that this was a good move. Dr. Thompson had suggested preparing some question and answers, anticipating community questions about it, and Mr. Cooper will work on that.

The other matter was whether we could implement a change to our By-laws specifying that if the board of trustees failed to approve the director's proposed operating budget by the beginning of the fiscal year, that budget would go into effect as written. There is some concern about whether this is a legal by-law change. Mr. Cooper will contact an attorney to get an opinion.

Friends Report

There was no Friends report.

City Hall

There was no report from City Hall.

Old Business

Dr. Thompson moved that the library become fine free. Mr. Austin seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Cooper said he will work on implementing this as soon as it can be done smoothly.

New Business

The discussion of implementing a fail-safe budget measure was tabled pending getting a legal opinion on the matter.

Dr. Thompson made new committee assignments. Mr. Cooper will distribute the revised chart of committees soon.

Adjournment

Mr. Scholl moved to adjourn, Mr. Austin 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, August 17 at 7 p.m.