



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

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

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 21, 2022 Meeting

Mr. Austin 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 added nothing past his written report.

Advanced Planning

Dr. Harris spoke of the progress on assembling focus groups, which are scheduled to take place next week. There are not enough participants in the category of 'North Webster non-users.' Ms. Arnold says she may have some names, which she will share and perhaps we can round out that category.

Building and Grounds

Ms. Waugh recapped some recent work, including the carpet in the meeting room, the repair of the sump pump area in the basement. We have a bid to repaint the gallery area, work which Mr. Cooper will get scheduled soon.

Finance

Mr. Cooper explained the sudden increase in our Full Time Overtime Hours as a matter of how our time clock records hours, not an actual increase in OT usage.

Ms. Worthington moved to approve the Finance Report, Ms. Waugh seconded, and the report was approved.

Human Resources

There was a discussion of the resumes for library director, and the next steps to be taken. There are eleven resumes, and committee members should review them to plan which ones should be interviewed.

Mr. Cooper offered some insights into things to look for in resumes for a library director. He explained about the management structure of libraries, so trustees could better understand the depth of an applicant's administrative experience.

Policy

There was no report from this committee.

Friends Report

Ms. Worthington said the Friends had held their annual book sale this past weekend. She did not have the total earnings from the sale, but noted that it was low enough that there is talk of discontinuing book sales, because they do not bring in nearly the money they used to, especially not compared to the work involved. She also said that the Friends Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 20. Patrick Murphy will be the guest speaker, which should draw a nice audience.

City Hall

Ms. Arnold said the city had held a strategic planning meeting last weekend, mostly to organize information gathered and discuss priorities. Sarah Riss, former superintendent of Webster Groves School District had served as moderator, making for a very effective meeting.

Grand opening of the new S. Elm Firehouse is on Saturday, Oct. 22. Public Safety Day will happen on October 29.

Joe Rath and Dan Warner, long-time managers of Old Webster Jazz & Blues Festival, will receive the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts award from the Webster Groves Arts Commission in a ceremony at the Rec Center on October 28.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Cooper said that due to some changes in how we managed our bank accounts last year, he had to revise one of the pages of the annual report, and will present the complete report in November.

There was a discussion of how the board would respond to Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's move to censor public library collections by taking state funding away from libraries that do not comply with his rules. The legal, financial, and policy considerations of our response were discussed.

It was agreed that organization of the response would be vested with the Policy Committee, and Mr. Cooper will start assembling necessary information and report to that committee.

Adjournment

Mr. Austin moved to adjourn, Dr. Harris seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, November 16 at 7 p.m.