

MINUTES  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
February 4, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Peoria Public Library was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Barbara Van Auken in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room, Main Library, 107 NE Monroe Street, Peoria, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present: Margaret Cousin, Tiffanie Duncan, Dr. Arun Pinto, Barbara Van Auken, Jeanne Williamson, and Cathy Curtis

Committee Members Absent: Pat Barton, Edward Barry, Tim Hartneck, and Tom Menger

Staff Present: Randall Yelverton, Roberta Koscielski, Jennifer Davis, and Alyce Jackson

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A. Approval of January 7, 2020 Minutes

A motion was made by Margaret Cousin, seconded by Dr. Arun Pinto, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

B. StoryWalk® at North Branch

Jenni Davis reported that she is asking elected officials whether they want to sponsor a North Branch post. The installation of the Lincoln Branch StoryWalk® will be in spring, possibly to coincide with National Library Week (April 19-25) or Children's Day (April 30). Jeanne Williamson reported that the Building Committee met with the landscaper to review the area where the North Branch StoryWalk® will be. Randall added that Jay Furniss met with the landscaper yesterday (after the snow melted) and the landscaper will bring his proposal to the February 11 Building Committee meeting. Wooden furniture being built and sold by the shop class at Manual High School may be considered for this area.

C. Proposed Little Free Library at Ronald McDonald House

Jenni Davis met with Annie Spears, Ronald McDonald House Community Engagement Coordinator, last week. Ms. Spears is very interested in collaboration and has already put out Peoria Public Library newsletters. They might like to have book shelves that fit into their living room area, rather than the traditional Little Free Library design. Jenni said she would know for sure soon.

D. Annual Income Generated by Library Fines

Barbara Van Auken appointed Dr. Arun Pinto to chair an ad hoc committee to research what other public libraries are doing regarding fine forgiveness. She added that the purpose of fines is not to generate revenue. Randall added that fines are a small part of the Library's revenue. Barbara requested slow, steady, and thorough research resulting in a recommendation to the Community Relations Committee.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS UPDATES**

### **A. New Ongoing Local History Feature in *Journal Star***

Jenni Davis reported that Chris Farris is repurposing some of his Local History Collection Facebook posts for a weekly Sunday feature in the *Journal Star*. The first article appeared in this past Sunday's newspaper.

### **B. Peoria Reads 2020: *The Hate U Give***

Roberta Koscielski reported that Jenni Davis, along with Colleen Karn from Methodist College, accepted the Mayoral proclamation for Peoria Reads at the January 28 City Council meeting. She added that classes from both Manual High School and Notre Dame High School are reading *The Hate U Give* this semester. Dr. Melinda McBree-Orzulak from Bradley University presented a program for educators at Lakeview Branch this afternoon.

### **C. Neighborhood House**

Roberta Koscielski reported that since Common Place has merged with Neighborhood House as of December 31, 2019, their adult and youth literary programs are now being run from Neighborhood House. Roberta has moved onto the Board of Neighborhood House.

Partnerships are continuing, as Roberta is a member of their Adult Literacy group (formed by a former Common Place staff member) and a Neighborhood House staff member, formerly employed by Common Place, has joined the Peoria Reads committee.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Barbara Van Auken reported that yesterday she emailed Board members an article stating that according to a recent Gallup poll, visiting the local library remains by far the most common cultural activity Americans engage in.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Tiffanie Duncan to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

---

Barbara Van Auken, Chair  
Community Relations Committee  
Board of Library Trustees  
Peoria Public Library