

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
February 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Stephen Buck called the meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of Peoria Public Library to order at 5:36 p.m. This Regular meeting was held in the Lower Level 2 Conference Room at Main Library, 107 NE Monroe, Peoria, Illinois.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President requested that all those who are able to please stand and join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Ruth Bittner, Stephen Buck, Lucy Gulley, Courtney Lee, Roberta Parks, Melissa Sanchez, and Barbara Van Auken

Board Members Absent: None

Library Staff Present: Veronica De Fazio, Deputy Director; Alyce Jackson, Programming Manager; Jennifer Jacobsen-Wood, Technical Services Manager; and Randall Yelverton, Executive Director. Library Staff AFSCME Members Riley Aldridge, Gwen Ayler, Gray Baker, Katy Bauml, Barb Brown, Carolyn Conklin, Pat England, Jorge Espinoza, Rose Farrell, Chris Farris, Grace Figgers, Tiana Helms, Spencer Kelly, Beverly McClaskey, Stacy McCleod, Rebecca Partee, Chrystal Pehm, Seth Peterson, Cari Pierce, Liesl Prentice, Jacob Roberts, Adam Scachette, Mary Spengler, Lisa Swigart, Laurie Trimble, Karla Wilkinson, and Cynthia Wright

Others Present:

Jane Aldridge, Jensen Aldridge, Jennifer Barajas, Paige Blanz, Denise L. Clark, Bill Cregger, Marybeth Cregger, Ruth Cregger, Spencer Dugan, Debra Dukes, Rob Fanti, Charlie Farris, Shawna Farris, Joe Fitzanko, Elizabeth Gannon, Lindsey Hawkins, Matthew Hayes, Amanda Hilde, Ryan Hilde, Gavin Hunt, Jake Malin, Jacob McCartney, Joseph McCleod, Michael McGraw, Ashley Mendrick, Cheyenne Mets, Nick Mets, Noah Palm, Richard Partee, Hans Peterson, Gus Pierce, John Pierce, Juanita Roberts, Selena Roberts, Wayne Roberts, Tim Shelley, J. Max Smith, Anthony Walraven, Jerry A. White, Jonathan Wright, and Mae Wright

A motion was made by Barbara Van Auken, seconded by Roberta Parks to allow Margaret Cousin to attend the meeting via phone. Motion passed unanimously. Margaret Cousin joined the meeting at 5:39 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

Stephen Buck noted that an article from *Peoria Magazine* highlighting the work of Lincoln Branch manager Cynthia Smith was included in the correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Per the Meeting Agenda, President Stephen Buck called for Public Comment from those in the audience wishing to speak to the Board, and briefly explained the Board's policy on the "Rules of Participation at a Library Board Meeting," including that each speaker is limited to five (5) minutes and that there is a limit of twenty (20) minutes in total for each topic addressed during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Before the meeting began, those wishing to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting were asked sign up by filling out a public comment card. President Buck then called up the individual Speakers to the podium in the order in which they submitted public comment cards prior to the start of the meeting. Staff/AFSCME members (Gray Baker, Katy Bauml, Spencer Kelly) read letters from staff members. Staff/AFSCME members (Riley Aldridge, Seth Peterson, Mary Spengler) spoke from personal experience. The topic which each Speaker addressed focused on the wage proposals exchanged between Library Management and the Union Bargaining Committee during ongoing collective bargaining over the terms of a new contract/collective bargaining agreement, including that the Union did not believe that the wages being offered by the Library Management were fair, did not reflect that Library Management respected and valued Library employees, were not staying ahead of the minimum wage, were not keeping up with inflation and the increased cost of living, and would place staff in the difficult situation of living paycheck to paycheck.

Staff/AFSCME member Rose Farrell read a letter on behalf of the union stewards addressing Library's finances, the need for increases in wages, and staff retention. Staff/AFSCME member Chris Farris discussed the City's funding of the Library and the Library's budget, as did AFSCME Vice President Anthony Walraven.

Community members (Lyndsey Hawkins, Ryan Hilde) addressed the Board of Library Trustees regarding the work that the staff does and the positive impact that has on the community, and the impact that wages can have on retention.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. #2023-11: Request to Approve Minutes as listed below:

1. Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of January 17, 2023
2. Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of January 17, 2023
3. Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting October 11, 2022
4. Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting January 10, 2023

B. #2023-12: Request to Approve Expenditures as listed below:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Payroll for Period Ending January 21, 2023 | \$121,889.39 |
| 2. Payroll for Period Ending February 4, 2023 | \$123,452.75 |
| 3. Regular Expenditures for January 2023 | \$128,067.07 |
| 4. 2022 Obligated Fund Expenditures for February 2023 | \$ 38,404.75 |

- C. #2023-13: Request of the Executive Director to Approve Personnel Actions for the periods ending February 17, 2023
- D. #2023-14: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Finance Reports for the month of January 2023
- E. #2023-15: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Library Use Statistics for the month of January 2023
- F. #2023-16: Affirm Board of Library Trustee Committees

Item F. #2023-16 was not available for this meeting. Stephen Buck requested that it be pulled from the consent agenda and tabled until March.

A motion was made by Barbara Van Auken, seconded by Melissa Sanchez to approve Consent Agenda items #2023-11 through #2023-15 and table #2023-16 until the March meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

A. #2023-17: First Reading Cards for Kids Resolution

Randall Yelverton reviewed the law that was passed by the State of Illinois in May 2022 that allows library Boards of Trustees to provide library cards free-of-charge to any children under the age of 18 living in unserved areas, despite their financial status. Barbara Van Auken noted what a pleasure it was to finally be able to offer this kind of service to all children.

A motion was made by Barbara Van Auken, seconded by Roberta Parks to approve the first reading of the Cards for Kids Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A. COVID update

Local, state, and national COVID guidance continues to be monitored in order to make any needed service adjustments.

B. Early closing at Lincoln branch

Due to a gas leak at the Lincoln branch that needed repair, the location was closed for several hours on January 31. The leak was repaired, and Lincoln reopened for the next day.

C. Presentation to Rotary Club

Veronica De Fazio and Randall Yelverton spoke to the Downtown Rotary Club on February 17. They shared news about the Library and information regarding resources and services.

D. Videoconferencing project in LL2 Conference Room

The videoconferencing project in the LL2 Conference Room is nearing completion. The IT team has installed the microphones and have tested the equipment. We will be removing the furniture on which the equipment is currently sitting and mounting the TV to the wall. Barbara Van Auken inquired if this equipment will be available to the public. Randall replied in the affirmative.

E. Per Capita Grant and IPLAR

Veronica completed the Per Capita Grant application and will be submitting the Illinois Public Library Annual Report to the State Library in the next week.

F. Annual evaluations

Annual evaluations of the staff and the Management Team have been completed.

G. Illinois Libraries Present update

Randall thanked the Board for their support of the Library's inclusion in Illinois Libraries Present, a cooperative effort to provide digital programs featuring nationally renowned speakers to libraries across Illinois. Upcoming speakers include:

- March 1: The Weird & Wonderful World with Mary Roach (*watch party scheduled for North Branch*)
- April 4: Actor Danny Trejo talks Tacos, Hollywood, and Redemption
- April 25: Secrets of the Puzzle Master: A Conversation with Will Shortz
- May 6: Drawing Comics with Jarrett J Krosoczka
- May 17: On Being Fabulous with Jonathan Van Ness and Kristi Yamaguchi
- June 6: Navigate Your Stars: A Conversation with author Jesmyn Ward
- June 21: Braiding Sweetgrass: A Conversation with Robin Wall Kimmerer

H. Peoria Reads update

This year Peoria Reads is expanding to include multiple libraries in the area. It will be called Central Illinois Reads and feature sessions and notable speakers presenting on the topic of information access and reading freedom.

I. Negotiations update

Veronica and Randall continue to meet as a part of contract negotiations with AFSCME.

J. Door count and circulation for January 2023

The visitor total for January 2023 was up 27.2% over January 2022. The circulation total for the same period was down 5.9%.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY BOARD LIAISON TO THE FRIENDS OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building Committee – No Report

B. Community Relations Committee

1. **January Staff Report**

Staff report was included in the packet. Barbara Van Auken reminded the Board that this committee is now only meeting when there are action items to be considered. Otherwise, a monthly report is submitted by Veronica De Fazio on behalf of the staff.

C. Executive Committee – No Report

D. Finance Committee – No Report

E. Nominating/Appeals Committee – No Report

F. Personnel/Negotiations Committee

G. Strategic Planning Committee

1. **#2023-18 Strategic Plan Action Steps 2023**

Roberta Parks presented the 2023 Action Steps to the Board on behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee. A motion was made by the Strategic Planning Committee, seconded by Barbara Van Auken to accept the 2023 Strategic Plan Action Steps. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Roberta Parks noted that former Board of Library Trustees member Pat Barton passed away.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Roberta Parks, seconded by Barbara Van Auken, to move into Executive Session at 6:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the ongoing contract negotiations between the Library and the union (5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)). Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

The Board returned to Regular Session at 6:55 pm.

AGENDA BUILDING

Roberta Parks suggested reconsidering the “Rules of Participation at a Library Board Meeting” to allow for more time for public comment.

ADJOURNAMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Melissa Sanchez, Secretary
Board of Library Trustees
Peoria Public Library