

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
April 18, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Pro Tem Barbara Van Auken called the meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of Peoria Public Library to order at 5:32 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 Pro Tem requested that all those who are able to please stand and join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WELCOME Dr. GONDI** – Randall Yelverton and Barbara Van Auken welcomed new Library Trustee Dr. Christopher Gondi.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:** Ruth Bittner, Margaret Cousin, Christopher Gondi, Courtney Lee, Roberta Parks, and Barbara Van Auken

**Board Members Absent:** Stephen Buck, Lucy Gulley

**Library Staff Present:** Jenni Davis, Public Relations Manager; Veronica De Fazio, Deputy Director; Jennifer Jacobsen-Wood, Technical Services Manager; and Randall Yelverton, Executive Director. Library Staff AFSCME Members Riley Aldridge, Gwen Ayler, Gray Baker, Carolyn Conklin, Pat England, Beverly McClaskey

**Others Present:**

Mike McGraw

A motion was made by Roberta Parks, seconded by Margaret Cousin to allow Melissa Sanchez to attend the meeting via Zoom. Motion passed unanimously. Melissa Sanchez joined the meeting at 5:35 pm.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Barbara Van Auken noted that the Library received a thank you note from Representative Sorenson for being drop-off locations for his Valentines for Veterans program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Per the Meeting Agenda, President Pro Tem Barbara Van Auken 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 to sign up by filling out a public comment card. President Pro Tem Van Auken 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.

The topics which AFSCME 3464 members (Riley Aldridge and Gray Baker) addressed included 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 and the City's future funding of the Library as well as the Library's future budgets.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. #2023-32: Request to Approve Minutes as listed below:
  - 1. Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 21, 2023
  - 2. Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of March 21, 2023
  
- B. #2023-33: Request to Approve Expenditures as listed below:
  - 1. Payroll for Period Ending March 18, 2023 \$123,565.83
  - 2. Payroll for Period Ending April 1, 2023 \$123,913.84
  - 3. Regular Expenditures for April 2023 \$237,827.17
  
- C. #2023-34: Request of the Executive Director to Approve Personnel Actions for the periods ending April 14, 2023
  
- D. #2023-35: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Finance Reports for the month of March 2023
  
- E. #2023-36: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Library Use Statistics for the month of March 2023

A motion was made by Margaret Cousin, seconded by Courtney Lee to approve Consent Agenda items #2023-32 through #2023-36. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

None

#### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

##### **A. Monthly Programming Report**

A report from Programming Manager Alyce Jackson was included in the packet.

##### **B. Welcome, Dr. Gondil**

New Library Trustee, Christopher Gondil, was welcomed at the beginning of the meeting.

**C. Central Illinois Reads**

The Central Illinois Reads program, a partnership between Peoria Public Library, six area libraries, Bradley University, and Methodist College got off to a great start this week.

**D. TV and Radio Appearances**

Alyce Jackson did an interview with WEEK 25 promoting the program, and Jenni Davis was interviewed by WCBU as well.

**E. Peoria City Council Proclamation**

At the April 11 Peoria City Council meeting, the City read a proclamation honoring the Central Illinois Reads program which will focus on book bans and challenges. Staff from the library and representatives from partner libraries attended as well.

**F. Presentation to the City**

Following the proclamation, Randall Yelverton spoke about the importance of preserving the Freedom to Read, and Alyce Jackson shared information about the program's partners and highlighted some of the upcoming events.

**G. Dr. Emily Knox**

On April 13, Dr. Emily Knox presented a fascinating and insightful program on book bans and challenges within public and school libraries.

**H. Election Day**

The Library hosted early voting and was a polling place on Election Day at the Main and North locations.

**I. AV Update to Conference Room**

The IT Department has completed work on the videoconferencing system in the Lower Level 2 Conference Room. IT Manager Phillip Moats attended the meeting and was introduced to the Board.

**J. Open Meetings Act Training**

Yelverton reminded Board members that Open Meetings Act training needed to be completed at least once during their tenure. De Fazio will send information on how to complete that training out to the Board of Library Trustees.

**K. Partnership with Speak Out Illinois and Midwest Food Bank**

The Library is currently partnering with Speak Out Illinois and the Midwest Food Bank for a food drive at multiple locations.

**L. Illinois Libraries Present conversation with Will Shortz**

The Library is co-hosting a presentation by New York Times Crossword Editor Will Shortz as part of the Illinois Libraries Present programming on April 25 at 7:00 pm.

**M. Ongoing Negotiations**

De Fazio and Yelverton continue to meet as a part of contract negotiations with AFSCME.

**N. Door Count and Circulation**

The visitor total for March 2023 was up 33.2% over March 2022. The circulation total for the same period was up 2.1%.

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

The March Treasurer's report was included in the packet. Friends of the Library President, Margaret Cousin announced that the Friends membership campaign is underway. Cousin also reported on issues regarding PayPal and being able to accept credit card payments.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Building Committee – No Report

**B. Community Relations Committee****1. April Staff Report**

De Fazio highlighted some of the activities from the report in the packet.

C. Executive Committee – No Report

D. Finance Committee – No Report

E. Nominating/Appeals Committee – No Report

F. Personnel/Negotiations Committee – No Report

G. Strategic Planning Committee – No Report

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Roberta Parks, seconded by Margaret Cousin, to move into Executive Session at 6:04 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 6:32 p.m.

**AGENDA BUILDING**

None

**ADJOURNAMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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Melissa Sanchez, Secretary  
Board of Library Trustees  
Peoria Public Library