

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
May 16, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Stephen Buck called the meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of Peoria Public Library to order at 5:35 pm. 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:** Stephen Buck, Ruth Bittner, Margaret Cousin, Christopher Gondi, Lucy Gulley, Courtney Lee, Roberta Parks, and Barbara Van Auken

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Library Staff Present:** Jenni Davis, Public Relations Manager; Veronica De Fazio, Deputy Director; Alyce Jackson, Programming Manager; Jennifer Jacobsen-Wood, Technical Services Manager; Phillip Moats, IT Manager; and Randall Yelverton, Executive Director.

Library Staff AFSCME Members Ginger Adams, Riley Aldridge, Gray Baker, Barb Brown, Carolyn Conklin, Bindu Damodaran, Pat England, Rose Farrell, Amber Lowery, Beverly McClaskey, Chrystal Pehm, Seth Peterson, Adam Scachette, Lisa Swigart, Laurie Trimble

**Others Present:**

Kyle Amer, R. T. Baxter, Erin Brown, Char Davidson, Joe Fitzanko, Nick Hall, Virginia Holwell, Maureen Kenny, Linda Lowery, Mike McGraw, David Mingus, Noah Palm, Matthew Sims, Felix Scovil, Devon Snodgrass, William Snodgrass, Mike Vespa, Anthony Walraven, Adam Wertzler, Jerry White, and Martha Willi

**CORRESPONDENCE**

President Buck noted that correspondence to the Board of Library Trustees arrived after the Board packet was sent out. He directed that it be distributed to the trustees following the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Per the Meeting Agenda, President Buck called for Public Comment from those in the audience wishing to speak to the Board. President Buck 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 Staff/AFSCME 3464 members (Barb Brown, Lisa Swigart, and Seth Peterson) addressed included wages, staff retention, and safety. AFSCME President Anthony Walraven also spoke to wages and staff retention, as well as funding from the City.

Community members (Maureen Kenny, Virginia Howell, Noah Palm, Nick Hall, and David Mingus) addressed the Board of Library Trustees regarding the work that the staff does and the positive impact that has on the community. They spoke in favor of higher wages.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. #2023-40: Request to Approve Minutes as listed below:
  - 1. Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 18, 2023
  - 2. Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of April 18, 2023
  - 3. Minutes of the Personnel/Negotiations Committee meeting of July 28, 2022
  - 4. Minutes of the Personnel/Negotiation Committee meeting Executive Session of July 28, 2022
  
- B. #2023-41: Request to Approve Expenditures as listed below:

1. Payroll for Period Ending April 15, 2023	\$123,432.18
2. Payroll for Period Ending April 29, 2023	\$122,690.86
3. Regular Expenditures for May 2023	\$458,796.74
  
- C. #2023-42: Request of the Executive Director to Approve Personnel Actions for the periods ending April 14, 2023
  
- D. #2023-43: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Finance Reports for the month of April 2023
  
- E. #2023-44: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Library Use Statistics for the month of April 2023
  
- F. #2023-45: Request to Adopt Resolution to renew participation in the Illinois Non-Resident Card program and to establish a fee of \$144 for the non-resident card for the year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024

A motion was made by Barbara Van Auken, seconded by Margaret Cousin to approve Consent Agenda items #2023-40 through #2023-45. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. **#2023-46 Video Intercom and Lock Release for Administrative Office**  
Randall Yelverton reviewed how the addition of the video intercom and lock release system would help in the increased efforts to create the Administrative Office as a secured space where all of the accounting and employee records are maintained.

A motion was made by Roberta Parks, seconded by Barbara Van Auken to approve the purchase of the video intercom and lock release. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. #2023-47 Replace Copiers at All Locations**

Yelverton reviewed the proposal to replace the copiers at all five of the Library's locations. IT Manager Phillip Moats was in attendance to answer any questions.

A motion was made by Roberta Parks, seconded by Barbara Van Auken to approve the purchase of new copiers for all Library locations. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**A. Monthly Programming Report**

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

**B. Invitation to the State Capitol**

The Secretary of State's office invited representatives from Central Illinois Reads to the state capitol to speak about HB2789 at a press conference with the Secretary of State after its likely passage in the Senate on May 3. Randall Yelverton and Alyce Jackson represented the Library at this event.

**C. Meeting with the State Library Director**

While in Springfield, Alyce Jackson, Fondulac District Library Director Genna Buhr, and Yelverton met with State Library Director Greg McCormick who prepped them for the day's activities. They joined Summer Griffith, Director of Springfield's Lincoln Library, in filming short web videos in support of the bill.

**D. Speaking at the HB2789 Press Conference**

Following the passage of the bill by the Senate, Secretary of State Giannoulis and the bill's co-sponsors, Director Griffith and Yelverton spoke to the press about the importance of the freedom to read and libraries' freedom to collect and distribute an array of materials to citizens.

**E. Interview with WCBU**

On May 4, Yelverton spoke to WCBU about the bill and library collection principles.

**F. Gift to the Library**

The Library received additional funds from the estate of Jane Sloman.

**G. Computer lab updates**

As a result of support from the City, the Library is close to completing updates to the computer labs at Lincoln and Main. Following the completion of these projects, the Library will invite the Mayor, City officials, and board members to celebrate these innovative education spaces.

**H. New copiers for our libraries**

As a result of the action earlier in the agenda, the Library will purchase new copiers for all locations. Due to the age of the current machines, the monthly maintenance costs have

become significant. These new copiers will greatly reduce the monthly maintenance costs as well as offer patrons new, more reliable photocopying services.

**I. Summer Reading Kickoff Party at North**

The staff at the North Branch are planning a Library Kick Off Party on June 3 from 11 am to 3 pm. The party will include games, face painting, music, and food trucks. City Council members and Library Trustees are invited to attend.

**J. Library locations closing early on July 18**

All Library locations will close at 6:00 pm on July 18 in order to participate in the Children's Summer Reading Party at the Peoria Zoo.

**K. Summer reading sign-up**

Registration for summer reading begins on May 15. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

**L. Negotiations update**

Mediation dates are set for June 7 and 8 as part of the ongoing contract negotiations with AFSCME.

**M. Door count and circulation numbers**

The visitor total for April 2023 was up 19.6% over April 2022. The circulation total for the same period was down 1.8%.

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

The April Treasurer's report was included in the packet. Friends of the Library President, Margaret Cousin reported that no meeting was held in May. She thanked Alyce Jackson and Karla Wilkinson for their work on the Summer Reading program and the upcoming Laurie Halse Anderson visit. Cousin encouraged all Trustees to consider a membership to the Friends.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Building Committee – No Report

**B. Community Relations Committee**

**1. May 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**

**1. Report from April 24, 2023 Grievance Hearing**

Committee Chair Barbara Van Auken reported that the hearing was held at the Lincoln Branch. Stephen Buck is preparing the final agreement.

G. Strategic Planning Committee – No Report

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Barbara Van Auken, seconded by Lucy Gulley, to move into Executive Session at 6:27 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 7:04 pm

**AGENDA BUILDING**

None

**ADJOURNAMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm

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Melissa Sanchez, Secretary  
Board of Library Trustees  
Peoria Public Library