

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
June 20, 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 5:31 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 Pro Tem 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, Margaret Cousin, Lucy Gulley, Roberta Parks, Melissa Sanchez, and Barbara Van Auken

Board Members Absent: Stephen Buck, Christopher Gondi, Courtney Lee

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: Ginger Adams, Gwen Ayler, Gray Baker, Barb Brown, Carolyn Conklin, Rose Farrell, Grace Figgers, Emily Geiger, Amber Lowery, Beverly McClaskey, Cari Pierce, Elizabeth Smith, Laurie Trimble

Others Present:

Reagon Brown, W. Lee Evans, Jr., Joe Fitzanko, Linda Lowery, Frazier Satterly, and Carolyn Schuldt

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments regarding correspondence received since the May meeting.

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. President Pro Tem Van Auken called 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 3464 member Barb Brown spoke from personal experience and Rose Farrell read a letter from an anonymous staff member. Topics covered by both speakers included wages, staffing levels, and appreciation of the staff. Staff/AFSCME 3464 member Gray Baker read a letter from community members Jerry and Lisa Sanderson in support of the Library staff.

Community member Carolyn Schuldt addressed the Board of Library Trustees in support of the staff and the noted the many positive ways that the Library is a part of her life.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. #2023-51: Request to Approve Minutes as listed below:
 - 1. Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of May 16, 2023
 - 2. Minutes of the Executive Session meeting of May 16, 2023

- B. #2023-52: Request to Approve Expenditures as listed below:

1. Payroll for Period Ending May 13, 2023	\$124,462.75
2. Payroll for Period Ending May 27, 2023	\$120,754.65
3. Payroll for Period Ending June 10, 2023	\$121,019.46
4. Regular Expenditures for June 2023	\$159,554.76
5. Capital Development Fund Expenditures for June 2023	\$ 6,950.00

- C. #2023-53: Request of the Executive Director to Approve Personnel Actions for the periods ending June 16, 2023

- D. #2023-54: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Finance Reports for the month of May 2023

- E. #2023-55: Request of the Executive Director to Receive and File Library Use Statistics for the month of May 2023

A motion was made by Roberta Parks, seconded by Lucy Gulley to approve Consent Agenda items #2023-51 through #2023-55. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. **#2023-56 Purchase of New Outreach Vehicle**

Randall Yelverton reviewed the process for selecting the vehicle. Barbara Van Auken inquired about a charging station. Yelverton responded that there is already a station in place in the North Branch garage. Yelverton also explained that the van will need to be retrofit with shelves and that eventually a lift will be installed. Van Auken thanked Rufus Nelson and Teri Miller on their help with selecting the vehicle.

A motion was made by Margaret Cousin, seconded by Roberta Parks to approve the purchase of the new Outreach vehicle. 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. Library tour with Councilman Mike Vespa

At the end of May, Randall Yelverton invited Councilman Mike Vespa to visit the Library. They had got an opportunity to talk about new services the Library is offering, such as video

conferencing. They also discussed the long-term financial outlook for the Library and Amber Lowery gave a tour of Local History and Genealogy. Roberta Parks inquired if new council member Bernice Gordon-Young had also been invited to the Library. Yelverton stated that he will reach out to her.

C. Mayor's Youth Internship program

The Library is participating in the Mayor's Youth Internship again this summer. This program is providing an additional Page at Lincoln Branch. The student is being compensated by the City and learning valuable job skills through their work at the Library.

D. Summer Reading has begun!

Summer Reading started on June 4. Yelverton encouraged everyone to sign up.

E. Summer Reading Kick-off Party at North

On June 3, the North Branch put on a fantastic Summer Reading Kick-off Party. There were several hundred attendees who enjoyed songs, games, food trucks, crafts and face painting. The staff did an excellent job, entertained lots of families, and got our Summer Reading program off to a great start. During the event Yelverton had the opportunity to speak to Councilman Andre Allen about the Library as well.

F. WTVP's *At Issue*

Programming Manager, Alyce Jackson and Yelverton appeared on WTVP's *At Issue* along with Ann Reeves, Director of Eureka Public Library District, and Kari Garman, Collection Development Manager at Normal Public Library. They spoke about book bans, intellectual freedom and had the chance to plug the various summer reading programs.

G. City of Peoria strategic planning kick-off

Veronica De Fazio, Melissa Sanchez, and Yelverton attended the City's two-day strategic planning event (June 1-2) on behalf of the Library. They met in groups to discuss with Peorians and City leaders' issues throughout the City and ways to address them. Sanchez and Yelverton were part of the Finance group and gained some unique insight from the City Treasurer about some of the City's pressing issues, particularly the increasing pension debt and the affect this will have on City services if it is not addressed with additional revenue collection. De Fazio was part of the group that focused on "Reimagining Downtown," sharing thoughts on the current struggles and possible solutions.

H. Media Literacy conference hosted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Thanks to the work our Library has done on the subject of media literacy, Yelverton was invited to attend a two-day conference (June 15-16) in Jersey City, NJ, hosted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on the topic of media literacy. IMLS paid for the travel and accommodations.

I. Computer lab open house event

The IT department is close to completing work on updates to the computer labs at Main and Lincoln. After the completion of the project, the Library will host an open house and invite City leaders to see the new labs and thank them for their ongoing support. Exact details of the open house are still to come.

J. New copiers

In approximately three weeks, the Library will be receiving new copiers. Yelverton thanked the Board for their support of this project last month.

K. Mediation meetings

Mediation was held June 7-8. An additional meeting with the union's negotiation team will be held at the end of this month.

L. Door count and circulation numbers

The visitor total for May 2023 was up 18.4% over May 2022. The circulation total for the same period was up 10.8%.

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

The May Treasurer's report was included in the packet. Friends of the Library President, Margaret Cousin reported that the Friends are funding the end of summer reading party at the Peoria Zoo as well as providing support for the bike giveaway at Lincoln Branch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building Committee – No Report

B. Community Relations Committee

1. June Staff Report

De Fazio highlighted some of the activities from the report in the packet. Van Auken noted the pop-up ads and email signatures promoting summer reading. Roberta Parks mentioned the upcoming Big Picture Peoria Street Festival and the Library's possible role in the event. She will touch base with De Fazio to look into this further.

C. Executive Committee – No Report

D. Finance Committee

1. #2023-57 Amend the 2023 Budget

A motion was made by Ruth Bittner, seconded by Margaret Cousin to accept the 2023 Budget amendments as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Nominating/Appeals Committee

1. #2023-58 Election of Officers for 2023-2024

Committee Chair Lucy Gulley presented the following slate of officers for 2023-2024:

- Barbara Van Auken – President
- Ruth Bittner – Vice-President
- Melissa Sanchez – Secretary

Gulley asked for any nominations from the floor and none were made. Gulley declared the nominations closed. A motion was made by Margaret Cousin, seconded by Roberta Parks, to approve the slate of officers for 2023-2024 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Personnel/Negotiations Committee – No Report

G. Strategic Planning Committee – No Report

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Melissa Sanchez, seconded by Lucy Gulley, to move into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21)) and 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 6:53 pm

- A. #2023-60: Review and discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed and determine if they should be open to the public under the Open Meetings Act (5ILCS 120/2(c)(21)).
1. Regular Board Meeting: Executive Session January 17, 2023
 2. Regular Board Meeting: Executive Session February, 21, 2023
 3. Regular Board Meeting: Executive Session March 21, 2023

A motion was made by Margaret Cousin, seconded by Lucy Gulley for the minutes listed on the Executive Session agenda to remain closed. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA BUILDING

None

ADJOURNAMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm

Melissa Sanchez, Secretary
Board of Library Trustees
Peoria Public Library