

MINUTES  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES  
PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
August 2, 2022

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Peoria Public Library was called to order at 5:26 p.m. by Vice Chair Margaret Cousin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room of Peoria Public Library Main Library.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present: Margaret Cousin, Roberta Parks, Cathy Curtis, and Tom Menger  
Committee Members Absent: Steve Buck, Barbara Van Auken, and Cathie Neumiller  
Staff Present: Veronica DeFazio, Alyce Jackson, Karla Wilkinson, Jenny Sevier (5:28 pm), and Cynthia Smith (5:28 pm)

**III. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A. Approval of June 7, 2022 Minutes

Due to lack of quorum, these minutes will be brought to the September meeting for approval.

**IV. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATES**

A. Lincoln Branch Hall of Fame

Cynthia Smith reported that she submitted names and organizations for nomination to the Hall of Fame. Randall Yelverton is the chair of the committee, and will set a meeting time to discuss nominations.

B. Peoria Reads! Good Neighbor Day Grant

Jenni Davis reported that the library, along with the Center Bluff Neighborhood Association, received a grant for \$5,000 from the City of Peoria for a community event on Good Neighbor Day (September 28, 2022). The Center Bluff Neighborhood Association will receive \$500 for beautification. The event will include live music, bounce houses, crafts, and displays from the police and fire departments.

C. Peoria Journal Star Archive

Veronica De Fazio reported that NewsBank, which owns the rights to the digital archives of the *Peoria Journal Star*, has dropped the price significantly for the library to gain access to approximately 50 additional years of newspapers. Jenny Sevier added that NewsBank is one of the top databases used by patrons every month. Reference staff have been using a trial version of the digital newspaper, and are very enthusiastic about how it works.

D. Summer Reading Program Wrap Up

Alyce Jackson reported that Summer Reading participation numbers were up slightly over the previous year. She also listed the sponsors who provided prizes for participants.

E. Portraits of Peoria

Jenni Davis reported that Big Picture Peoria will be installing vinyl portraits of famous Peorians on windows at Main Library that face Main Street. There is a tentative plan to have a reception and press conference on October 15. The artists who created the portrait will display other works in the library gallery in October.

F. CityLink Partnership

Jenni Davis reported that the library is forming a partnership with CityLink to promote National Library Card Sign-Up Month in September. Anyone with a Peoria Public Library, Fondulac District Library, or Pekin Public Library card will be able to ride CityLink for free during the month of September if they show their library card.

Roberta Parks and Jenni Davis departed the meeting at 6:00 pm.

G. July Outreach Events

- a. Peoria Pridefest – Adam Scachette and Elise Hearn attended
- b. QuadCon Toy and Comic Show – Veronica De Fazio and Jenni Davis attended
- c. Heart of Illinois Fair – Jenni Davis and Jennifer Jacobson Wood attended

H. Upcoming Outreach Events

- a. Charter Oak School (back to school events) – Alyce Jackson attended
- b. Ignite Peoria – staff members will attend at the Civic Center
- c. Other upcoming events at Peoria High School, Holy Family School, Bradley University, and Franklin School. Delta Kappa Gamma volunteers are assisting the library with school visits.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Margaret Cousin adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.



Margaret Cousin, Vice Chair  
Community Relations Committee  
Board of Library Trustees  
Peoria Public Library