

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Community Room
205 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Westerhout called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Trustees Physically Present: John Argenziano, Alicia Henry, Dianne Hollister, Van Miller, Susan Mohr, Catrina Parker, Matt Watchinski, Alicia Whitworth, Julian Westerhout

Trustees Absent: None

Others Physically Present: Krystle Able, Yvonne Adams, Sarah Adelman, Erin Bartlett, David P. Blumenshine, Reagan Brown, Mary Carlisle, Patrick Cortesi, Anita Embree, Eff Embree, Jean Flores, Trevin D. Gaffney, Robert Garcia, Sonny Garcia, Jason Halm, Jeanne Hamilton, Maria Havim, Janet Jones, Susan Kemper, Jerry Klinker, Aaron LeNeve, Eleanor Nave, Judy F. Owens, Caprice Prochnow, Joe P. Reed, Timothy Rosten, Anntionetta Rountree, Fitzgerald Samedy, Jesse Simmons, Matt Toczko, Bryanna Zimmerman
There were others present that failed to sign in.

Others Present via Zoom: Kathy Jeakins

III. Introduction of Public

President Westerhout welcomed the community members that were present and thanked all of them for coming.

President Westerhout made a brief statement for those attending the meeting.

He stated that the library has a display on the second floor that changes every month, which many of those present are probably familiar with. This display is not in the Children's area, but approximately 10' away. The display for September featured Graphic Novels which are a genre of illustrated books that are growing in popularity. Years ago, these were referred to as comic books, but today they feature full length books that address an enormous number of topics from the humorous to the serious. Some of these are aimed at kids and others are aimed at adults. The books on that display every month rotate and change out as patrons check them out. As part of that display at the end of September, there were some books that had adult themes that were not age appropriate for children. As Library Director Hamilton

had stated (in her interview with WMBD on September 29), "The Library fully recognizes that some of the books that were on display might cause concern for patrons, should their children examine them with absent parental oversight. Something that absolutely was not the library's intent. We will make a strong effort to not inadvertently expose young patrons to potentially inappropriate materials in the future, regardless of topic."

President Westerhout reiterated that the books in question are not designed for young readers nor are they shelved or displayed in the children's area. He went on to review the rules of public comment for those wishing to do so.

IV. Public Comment

Public comments were made by the following individuals on the topic of the Adult Graphic Novel book display that was featured during the month of September.

Krystle Able, Sarah Adelman, Erin Bartlett, Mary Carlisle, Robert Garcia, Jason Halm, Aaron LeVeve, Judy F. Owens, Anntionetta Rountree, Jesse Simmons, Matt Toczko,

V. President's Report

President Westerhout stated that it has been an interesting month and there was continuation on a variety of projects, including the library expansion. He went on to say that Library Director, Jeanne Hamilton, was recognized by The Pantagraph and McLean County Chamber of Commerce at the Leaders of Distinction award ceremony. She was one of the recipients of the "20 Under 40" awards. President Westerhout stated that this continues Jeanne's very strong record as Library Director and public servant as she is also the current President of the Illinois Library Association. President Westerhout congratulated Jeanne on behalf of the Board, on another very strong achievement.

VI. Director's Report

Jeanne Hamilton shared that Staff Development Day was held at the end of September and it was a great success. Safety drills were practiced and a speaker from ISU spoke on micro aggressions and how we can better serve our patrons. There was also a speaker from the local Alzheimer's Association that spoke on memory care that goes along with our recently new memory care collection.

Jeanne stated that a local history intern started here recently at the library. The intern will be going through the library's history and organizing it for us. Along with this, the library is partnering with the Museum of History and the intern will be digitizing the older city directories that are starting to deteriorate due to age.

Jeanne shared that the library was awarded an \$11,000 Grant from the State Library. This will help the library to support job seekers with a series of workshops and by offering more circulating hot spots.

President Westerhout pointed out that in Kathy Jeakins' report, the Hoopla use continues to be very strong. He went on to say that in Jon Whited's report, the wireless speed and performance continues to be upgraded to better serve library patrons.

VII. Fiscal Report Presentation

Kathy Jeakins, Business Manager reported that the budget should be at 41.7% through the end of September. She went on to say that Revenues are at 97% and Expenditures are at about 41%. Kathy stated that three Property Tax Distributions were received in September, and a few more are to be received in November and December. She entertained questions.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Minutes of September 21, 2021 Regular BPL Board Meeting

B. Approve Bills List of September 2021

ALICIA WHITWORTH MOVED, DIANNE HOLLISTER SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. Discussion Items

A. Per Capita Grant Requirements

Jeanne Hamilton shared that the State Library has decided that every year libraries are required to review the entire Serving Our Public 4.0: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries. She went on to say that this will be split up over a course of several Board meetings. Jeanne stated that each chapter of standards includes a checklist for libraries, and this month, we are reviewing chapters 1 – 4. She went on to say that she was pleased to report that we were able to check off most of the standards in each chapter. Jeanne stated that the chapter with the biggest need was chapter 4, which is the building chapter, that will be addressed with the expansion. She went on to say that this included providing the right amount of space, the entrance easily identifiable and well lit, lighting levels within the library and having enough shelving for the materials.

B. Library Expansion and Capital Campaign

President Westerhout reported there is nothing new to report.

X. Comments from Board of Trustees

Dianne Hollister was thankful for the opportunity to attend the ILA conference and stated that she learned a lot about EDI and particularly for children's books selection. She went on to share some other great parts of the conference.

John Argenziano stated that everyone may not have agreed with all of public comments made at the meeting, but he appreciated all of the folks in the community showing an interest in the library.

The rest of the Trustees chimed in to share their appreciation for the public interest.

XI. Adjournment

ALICIA WHITWORTH MOVED, CATRINA PARKER SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Westerhout adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.