

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, September 21, 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: Alicia Henry, Dianne Hollister, Susan Mohr, Catrina Parker, Matt Watchinski, Alicia Whitworth, Julian Westerhout

Trustees Absent: John Argenziano, Van Miller

Others Physically Present: Jeanne Hamilton, Caprice Prochnow

Others Present via Zoom: Kathy Jeakins
- III. Introduction of Public
There were no public present.
- IV. Public Comment
There were no public comments.
- V. President's Report
President Westerhout stated that it has been an active month. He went on to say that two weeks ago, he and Jeanne had meetings with Tim Gleason, City Manager, Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager, and members of City Council. They spoke about the progress of the expansion project and latest developments. The reception received was better than expected, with very little negativity and there were even suggestions to include the parking deck and to "just do it right." Julian shared that after presenting to the Council's Committee of the Whole last night, the plan is to present two options to Council in November. Option 1 would be asking for a 15M bond that does not include the parking garage and the other would be asking for a 17M bond that would include the parking garage. Julian shared that he and Jeanne have a good feeling about the "yes" votes at the November 8, 2021 Council meeting. There was discussion on this.
- VI. Director's Report
Jeanne shared that three COVID related Grants were applied for with the State Library and they hope to hear the results of these soon. One was more for reimbursement of PPE for COVID measures, another was a work force development classes, and the other was for putting together kits with a Meeting Owl Cam and laptops for local groups to check out - enabling hybrid meetings.
Jeanne stated that the Budget & Personnel Committee will need to meet to review the budget prior to the October Board meeting. Jeanne asked the committee members that

were present, if October 12 at 5:30 p.m., would work for them. The members were agreeable with this date, which is a week before the October Board meeting.

VII. Fiscal Report Presentation

Kathy Jeakins, Business Manager, reported that 13% of the budget year has passed at the end of August. She went on to say that Expenditures were a little bit behind, but now they are a bit over, and this is due to bigger “one time” things, such as OCLC and Collection HQ. Kathy stated that two Property Tax Distributions were received in September. She entertained questions.

Susan Mohr asked about the van loss and whether the insurance monies received would be going towards a new van. Caprice Prochnow shared that currently a smaller cargo van is being leased, possibly up to a year, but the goal is to move to a Techmobile in the future.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Minutes of August 17, 2021 Regular BPL Board Meeting

B. Approve Bills List of August 2021

DIANNE HOLLISTER MOVED, CATRINA PARKER SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. Action Items

A. Approve Proposed Amendments to the Personnel Handbook

Jeanne Hamilton shared that they did work with the Union for input on this and some things are more specific, but really moving towards a business casual attire wording. The biggest change is allowing staff to wear blue jeans anytime.

ALICIA WHITWORTH MOVED, SUSAN MOHR SECONDED, TO APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PERSONNEL HANDBOOK. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

X. Discussion Items

A. Library Expansion and Capital Campaign Update

Jeanne Hamilton stated that all of the Boards have been able to look at the potential donors list Rhonda had shared at last month’s meeting. She went on to say that so far, that they have received some level of support from the meetings that they have had. President Westerhout encouraged the Trustees to make a pledge to the Capital Campaign. This could be a one-time pledge or over time.

Jeanne shared that this could be done with a paper pledge form or online through the website. She went on to say that donations can be made directly to the library or to the Foundation. Some people prefer the Foundation since they are a 501c3.

Alicia Whitworth offered her assistance to Rhonda Massie with the acknowledgment letters to donors.

XI. Comments from Trustees

There were no comments from Trustees.

XII. Adjournment

DIANNE HOLLISTER MOVED, MATT WATCHINSKI SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Westerhout adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.