



MINUTES
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024, 5:30 PM

The Library Board of Trustees convened in regular session at 5:32 PM, February 20, 2024. President Julian Westerhout called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Catrina Parker	Trustee	Present, arrived at 5:56 PM
Matthew Watchinski	Trustee	Present
Alicia Whitworth	Trustee	Present
Dianne Hollister	Trustee	Present
John Argenziano	Trustee	Present
Susan Mohr	Vice President	Present
Julian Westerhout	President	Present
Van Miller	Trustee	Absent
Alicia Henry	Trustee	Absent

Staff Present: Nan Goerlitz, Jeanne Hamilton

Introduction of Public

There were no members of the public present.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Reports

The following item was presented:

Item 5.A. President's Report - Including the Appointment of the Nomination Committee
President Westerhout appointed Trustee Watchinski, Trustee Argenziano, and Trustee Hollister to the Nominating Committee. He indicated that he has reached his term limit, and the April 2024 meeting will be his last.

President Westerhout shared that he and the Library Director are having ongoing discussions with members of the Bloomington Public Library Foundation Board regarding recognition for their donation to the expansion. There will be a plaque recognizing the Foundation, plus information in the Quiet Reading Room about the Foundation.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Director's Report

Director Hamilton stated that one of the big focuses is still construction. Staff have requested tours of the east side of the building, and she will organize those once carpet has been installed. The Board will be invited to those tours, also.

Director Hamilton indicated there will be a reception of some type once the full library is open. She will share the date as soon as schedules are firmed up.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Fiscal Report

Director Hamilton stated that the report is in the packet.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Item 6.A. Approve minutes of January 16, 2024: Regular Bloomington Public Library Board meeting.

Item 6.B. Bills in the Amount of \$573,096.88

Trustee Hollister made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitworth, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried (viva voce), 6-0.

Approval Items

The following item was presented:

Item 7.A. Approve Annual Periodical Subscription Service

Trustee Whitworth made a motion, seconded by Vice President Mohr, to approve the item as presented

AYES: Trustee Westerhout; Trustee Mohr; Trustee Argenziano; Trustee Hollister; Trustee Watchinski; Trustee Whitworth

ABSTAIN: Trustee Parker

Motion carried, 6-0-1.

Discussion Items

The following item was presented:

Item 8.A. Discuss Process for the Library Director's Annual Performance Review

Trustee Parker outlined the process for the Library Director's Annual Performance Review. She will send an email to the Board members and management staff. The Budget and Personnel Committee will meet April 2, 2024 to review the information before presenting it to the full Board.

Comments by Trustees

Trustee Parker expressed gratitude to the many staff members who helped her gather information for a presentation she did recently. It went very well, and she had people seeking her out afterward to ask more questions.

Trustee Hollister mentioned how happy she was that the Library's History Book Club merged with the McLean County Museum of History to present the author via Zoom. She also indicated she is trying to start a new forum with ILA for retired/soon-to-be-retired library workers.

Trustee Whitworth praised the library staff, saying that she and her children love them, and staff have helped her youngest child become an avid reader. Staff have also gone above the call to find books that, at first glance, appeared not to be on the shelves. She also expressed kudos to whomever is curating the new releases in the lobby. She picked up way more books than she originally intended from these shelves.

Trustee Parker commented that she appreciates that the library staff is so inclusive and welcoming of patrons who may be outside of the typical audience for some programs/books.

Trustee Argenziano stated he had read an article about a state proposing a bill that would subject librarians to arrest for distributing materials that are deemed obscene, which could easily include materials that many would not consider obscene. It got him thinking about the lack of civics education, and he wondered if there's a role for Trustees to develop some sort of civics program or theme month.

Trustee Watchinski asked the Board to let him know if any of them are interested in serving in an officer position. He also shared a positive comment from Facebook praising a staff member for noticing that the patron's email address was different from the name on their ID and asked if they'd like their preferred name on their account.

Adjournment

Vice President Mohr made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitworth, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (viva voce), 7-0.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:09 PM.