

Carbondale Public Library Board of Trustees

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

4:30 p.m.

Meeting Room

405 West Main St.

MINUTES

Call to order.

Called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll call.

Introductions, audience and visitors. Visitors are asked to introduce themselves at this time and present any issues they wish to discuss. Visitors wishing to address specific agenda items will be granted two to five minutes at the discretion of the President, not to exceed a total of twenty minutes. The Library Board may cut short any comments that are irrelevant, repetitious, or disruptive. (Id. at 1425-26).

Present.

Barbara Levine, President (1 excused)

Susan Tulis, Vice President (1)

Roland Person, Secretary (1 excused)

Julian Pei, Treasurer (3 excused)

Philip Brown (1)

Harriet Simon (1 excused)

Absent.

Joyce Hayes (1)

Chastity Mays (2)

Don Prosser (1)

The number following the Trustee's name indicates the number of absences this fiscal year.

Visitors.

None.

Staff present.

Diana Brawley Sussman, Library Director; Gwen Hall Grosshenrich, Finance Manager

President's report.

None.

Secretary's report.

1. Approval of October 9, 2019 minutes. Philip Brown moved to approve the minutes with corrected typos. Susan Tulis seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

Correspondence and communications.

None.

Financial report.

1. Approval of bills payable up to and including bills due November 16, 2019 to December 15, 2019. Bills of interest include the light pole for Japanese Garden. Roland Person moved to pay the bills. Susan Tulis seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

2. Acceptance of the financial report for October 2019. We have received all but \$150,000 in property taxes. We don't always receive the exact amount levied, due to delinquent payments. The board asked the Director to reach out to the

Jackson County Treasurer's office to ask whether the library receives its share of taxes due when that debt is sold. Julian Pei moved to accept the financial report. Harriet Simon seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

Librarian's report.

1. Building and grounds maintenance discussed.
2. Per Capita Grant Requirement: Review Appendices A-D of the Trustee Fact File. Discussed the appendices, particularly focusing on "The Freedom to Read" in a modern context. The version in the manual is from 1991. It focuses on books as the primary source of media. It also focuses on government censorship, whereas a lot of today's censorship stems from online social pressures. As a group, librarians and trustees agree with the freedoms asserted, though our modern context sometimes makes defending those freedoms all the more difficult. For example, we might question this statement: "We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation." It turns out that further education in information literacy is sorely needed, as Americans often do not recognize propaganda and misinformation. However, we still respect and defend the rights of individuals to "make their own decisions about what they read and believe." The board discussed specific recent situations in which libraries have needed to defend the first amendment, the freedom to read, and the freedom to view. For example, this controversy arose when O'Fallon Public Library did a program featuring the picture book *Justice Makes a Difference* by Dr. Artika Tyner. A group in the community argued that the program wasn't designed for "everyone," as some people perhaps do not approve of justice for all people. The library won an Intellectual Freedom Award for continuing with the program.
3. Other. The new Teen and Youth Program Coordinator Elizabeth Hartman is getting settled into her position. Our Children's Librarian Pat Luebke is retiring at the end of January. We are happy for Pat, but she has done such an excellent job, it will be difficult to find a suitable replacement. We hope to get a new librarian in place in time for a full month of training with Pat, and we have budgeted accordingly. Barbara Levine will help the staff to draft and revise personnel policy revisions prior to presentation to the full board, including a new Maternity and Paternity policy, and updated language for several other policies.

Committee reports.

None.

Unfinished business.

None.

New business.

1. Patron conduct.

Other.

None.

Adjournment.

Adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Roland Person, Secretary

Prepared by: Diana Brawley Sussman, Library Director

Board Meetings for 2020 pending board approval (All meetings will take place in the Public Library meeting room at 4:30 p.m. The November meeting will take place on the third Wednesday of the month. All other Board Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month): January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 18, December 9, 2020.