

MINUTES

Statement prior to start of the meeting.

The Board President determines that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the statewide COVID-19 disaster. This meeting is being recorded and will be posted online.

Call to order.

4:33 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.

Don Prosser, President
Roland Person, Secretary (1 excused)
Barbara Levine, Treasurer (1 excused)
Philip Brown (1)
Joyce Hayes (1 excused)
Chastity Mays (1 excused)
Julian Pei (2; plus 1 excused)
Harriet Simon (1)

Absent.

Susan Tulis, Vice President (1, plus 2 excused)

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

Visitors.

Staff present.

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

President's report.

An emergency policy committee meeting was held.

Secretary's report.

1. Approval of February 9, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. Barbara Levine moved to approve the minutes with minor corrections. Harriet Simon seconded. MOTION passed by roll call: 8 yeas. 0 nays. 0 abstentions.
2. Approval of February 9, 2022 Board Meeting executive session minutes. Roland Person moved to approve the minutes. Chastity Mays seconded. MOTION passed by roll call: 8 yeas. 0 nays. 0 abstentions.

Correspondence and communications.

None.

Financial report.

1. Approval of bills payable up to and including bills due March 16, 2022 to April 15, 2022. Julian Pei made a motion to pay the bills. Joyce Hayes seconded. Discussed specific bills. MOTION passed by roll call: 8 yeas. 0 nays. 0 abstentions.

2. Acceptance of the financial report for February, 2022. Philip Brown moved to accept the report. Barbara Levine seconded. Discussed donations, which include a single \$42,000 donation. MOTION passed by roll call: 8 yeas. 0 nays. 0 abstentions.

Librarian's report.

1. Building and grounds maintenance. Had an incident with water coming up through the bathroom floor. The city came immediately to clean out storm sewers under the parking lot.

2. COVID-19 procedures. The Emergency Policy Committee has voted to make masks recommended but not mandatory, following the state's change in requirements. This decision was made because staff have had to endure many hostile confrontations from members of the public who refuse to wear a mask (or wear it properly); when patrons are yelling at staff the risk of disease contamination increases, and these interactions are creating a lot of stress for staff. Masks will still be required of staff in all areas visible to the public (and in staff-only spaces when social distancing cannot be maintained). Masks may be required for the public when close one-on-one assistance is needed from staff and/or when a patron is sneezing or coughing a lot. Plexiglass is still in place.

3. Social Work program. Jack Trexler, our current intern recently received an award from SIU for being the most outstanding nontraditional student. The Director will apply for ARPA funding, which, if awarded, would fund a full-time Social Work position for an inaugural year in order to improve the consistency and quality of service.

4. Library fines and fees. The Director would like to eliminate fines on juvenile and teen materials in order to eliminate barriers to access, and to pave the way for intergovernmental agreements with school districts. The Director would like to make library card registration part of the school registration process if possible. That might involve creating a limited access card until and unless parents come in to have it switched to a full access card. We only receive about \$3,000 in fines and fees on juvenile and YA materials. The Director has not budgeted for that revenue in the past two years, so she knows that the library can manage without it.

The Board watched and discussed a video about the impact of overdue fines:

https://www.ted.com/talks/dawn_wacek_a_librarian_s_case_against_overdue_book_fines

Harriet Simon felt enthusiastic about the idea of eliminating fines on juvenile and young adult materials and creating a Memorandum of Understanding with District 95. Philip Brown liked the idea of an amnesty day, well publicized, with the launch of the initiative to eliminate fines on juvenile and teen materials. Don Prosser would like the Director's guidance on any limits that might be applied to cards acquired through a partnership with the schools, and would like to implement such a program as a one-year experiment, then explore further implementation. The Director was instructed to explore this with District 95, and to make recommendations to the Board about how to structure the program. There seemed to be a consensus in favor of the idea of eliminating fines for juvenile and teen materials.

Committee reports.

1. Approval of February 23, 2022 Emergency Policy Committee minutes. Don Prosser moved to approve these minutes. Harriet Simon seconded. MOTION passed by roll call: 8 yeas. 0 nays. 0 abstentions.

New business.

None.

Other.

1. Patron behavior. None.

2. The Board requested that the next meeting be in person.

Unfinished business.

None.

Adjournment.

5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Roland Person, Secretary

Prepared by: Diana Brawley Sussman, Library Director

Board Meetings for 2022. All meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.. Meetings are held in the Public Library meeting room unless taking place online due to a state of emergency (Agenda and link posted at <https://carbondalepubliclibrary.org/aboutus/board-of-trustees/upcoming-board-meeting-agenda/>): January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, 2022.