

MINUTES

Call to order.

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.

Don Prosser, President (1)
Chastity Mays, Vice President
Roland Person, Secretary
Barbara Levine, Treasurer
Philip Brown (1 excused)
Joyce Hayes
Julian Pei
Harriet Simon (online)
Susan Tulis (1 excused)

Absent.

None. The number following the Trustee's name indicates the number of absences this fiscal year.

Staff present.

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

Visitors.

Sherry Rhode introduced herself. She was accompanied by one representative from Longbranch who did not state her name. Sherry Rhode stated that she is an attorney representing Longbranch. She expressed concern about the upcoming program that the library is hosting with the Survivor Empowerment Center about the culture of cults. She wanted to know if the program included only general information about cults, or a discussion about local organizations and individuals, as the speaker has posted a lot of online content with accusations about Longbranch. The Library Director explained that the program is about cults in general and how people can identify and cope with abuse and exploitation in groups from a domestic violence perspective. The speaker has been asked to provide information focused on these generalities, rather than on any specific organizations or individuals. She further explained that the library can instruct speakers about the focus of a program, but cannot control what they say, and any views expressed by speakers at library programs are not necessarily the views of the library. She referred the visitors to the library's programming policy, but Ms. Rhode explained that her concerns were limited to her client, rather than library policy.

President's report.

1. Consideration of requests for excused absences for September 13, 2021 Board Meeting. Board President Don Prosser excused the absences of Philip Brown and Susan Tulis for the September 2022 Board Meeting in accordance with the board's bylaws. He also explained that he attended an awards ceremony in September along with Barbara Levine, Harriet Simon, and Dorcy Prosser in order to accept the John Cherry Heart and Soul Award from the Boys & Girls Club of Southern Illinois on behalf of the Library Director while she was away on vacation.

Secretary's report.

1. Approval of September 13, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. Barbara Levine moved to approve the minutes. Roland Person seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

Correspondence and communications.

None.

Financial report.

1. Approval of bills payable up to and including bills due October 16, 2022 to November 15, 2022. Having received some property tax revenue, we are paying off some large bills. Julian Pei moved to pay the bills. Joyce Hayes seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

2. Acceptance of the financial report for September, 2022. We are moving about \$400,000 from our checking account to our Illinois Funds General Revenue account for a better interest rate. Philip Brown moved to accept the financial report. Susan Tulis seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

Librarian's report.

1. Building and grounds maintenance. Walk through to assess the library's appearance. Barbara made a motion to recess the board meeting so that the board could tour the library. Chastity Mayes seconded for a recess. MOTION passed unanimously. After the tour roll call was taken to resume the meeting. All members were present. Staff present included the Library Director, and no visitors were present.

2. Per Capita Grant requirement: Discussion of Serving Our Public chapters 4, 5 and 8. The chapters were discussed, and the library meets all required standards.

3. Other. The publisher of Betty Mitchell's books (pictorial histories of Carbondale and SIU) is closing its doors and has offered the library the opportunity to purchase the negatives for each book with the option to purchase the copyrights as well. The library has purchased the negatives and a librarian went to St. Louis to pick them up. The purchase of copyright is not normally needed for archival purposes, but it remains an option. The library will need to eventually donate these negatives to a more suitable archival library that has the capacity to store them properly. Don Prosser pointed out that this board should realize what a significant contribution Betty Mitchell made to this library. The board suggested that we reach out to SIU Press and Sarah Meredith, Betty Mitchell's daughter. If the copyright is needed board members are willing to raise the funds. They asked if there were extra book copies of the books in stock, as they could be a nice gift for donors.

Committee reports.

None.

New business.

The Board asked the Director for further context regarding the topic brought up by today's visitors. Board President Don Prosser stated that as long as the program meets the parameters of our programming policies, the presentation on cults can and will continue, as this Board has no interest in censoring library programs.

Other.

1. Patron behavior. None.

Unfinished business.

None.

Adjournment.

Adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted:

Roland Person, Secretary

Prepared by: Diana Brawley Sussman, Library Director

Board Meetings remaining 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/>): November 9, December 14, 2022.