



MINUTES
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, 5:30 PM

The Library Board of Trustees convened in regular session at 5:30 PM, September 19, 2023. President Julian Westerhout called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Catrina Parker	Trustee	Present
Matthew Watchinski	Trustee	Present
Alicia Whitworth	Trustee	Present
Dianne Hollister	Trustee	Present
Van Miller	Trustee	Present
John Argenziano	Trustee	Present (via Zoom)
Susan Mohr	Vice President	Present
Julian Westerhout	President	Present
Alicia Henry	Trustee	Absent

Staff Present: Nan Goerlitz, Jeanne Hamilton, Kathy Jeakins

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

President Westerhout noted that the use of electronic resources continues to go up. He mentioned that construction seems to be progressing well.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.B. Director's Report

Director Hamilton indicated she had given tours of the west side of the building to all staff. There is not a definite date in place for moving to Phase 2 of the construction, because the crew are waiting for some life safety elements to be completed. Once those are in place, there will be a call for an inspection to grant occupancy of the west side of the building.

Director Hamilton shared that the Budget & Personnel Committee must meet to review a draft of the FY25 budget, and she confirmed that October 10 would work for Trustee Parker, who is the Chair of that Committee. Other members of that Committee are Trustee Westerhout, Trustee Henry, Trustee Argenziano, and Trustee Watchinski. The date was tentatively set.

The following item was presented:

Item 5.C. Fiscal Report Presentation

Kathy Jeakins indicated that the reports were in the packet. She also mentioned that she would be sending an email to sign up for the next quarter's bill reviews.

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 the Minutes of July 18, 2023: Regular Bloomington Public Library Board meeting

Item 6.B. Approve the Minutes of August 15, 2023: Regular Bloomington Public Library Board meeting

Item 6.C. Approve Bills in the Amount of \$2,600,620.51

Item 6.D. Approve Bills in the Amount of \$462,275.93

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

Motion carried (viva voce), 8-0.

Approval Items

The following item was presented:

Item 7.A. Approve Library Board Meeting Dates for the Next Calendar Year

Trustee Parker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Miller, to approve the item as presented.

Motion carried (viva voce).

The following item was presented:

Item 7.B. Approve a Construction Contingency Change to Reinstall an Existing Mechanical Unit Heater

Trustee Argenziano made a motion, seconded by Trustee Whitworth, to approve the item as presented.

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

Motion carried.

Discussion Items

Comments by Trustees

Trustee Argenziano asked if the Board had responded to the inquiry received regarding Pride Month. Director Hamilton indicated that in this particular case, no question was posed so no response was given. President Westerhout added that, in general, Board members should not respond to any formal inquiries individually, since the Board should respond as a whole. If a response was deemed appropriate, President Westerhout would seek a consensus from the entire Board before doing so.

Trustee Argenziano also highlighted the trend around the country of people and groups making a concerted effort to remove books from libraries. He wondered if the Bloomington Public Library is having issues with that movement. Director Hamilton stated that the State of Illinois passed a law stating that you cannot ban books, and that library boards should subscribe to the American Library Association Bill of Rights which talks about not removing books for political or single-viewpoint reasons. She mentioned that in the past couple years, the Library has had a small number of challenges to books in the collection by patrons who followed the proper process.

Trustee Hollister referred to an article she read citing right-wing lawmakers, including from Illinois, lobbying for libraries to leave the American Library Association. Director Hamilton stated that the lawmakers in Illinois wrote an open letter, and she does not think much will come of it. She said she feels ALA does not impact the Bloomington Public Library's day-to-day too much, anyway. ALA has some strong guidance pieces, like the Bill of Rights. The Library is much more involved with the Illinois Library Association because it's much more locally focused.

Trustee Miller inquired about the timeline for moving to Phase 2 in the expansion project. Director Hamilton indicated that there are no firm dates at this time, but there should be a 5-7 day lead time to schedule closing the Library and the collection movers. Reopening to the public on the west side of the building will happen on a weekday to minimize overwhelm for staff, systems, and parking.

Adjournment

Trustee Miller made a motion, seconded by Trustee Parker, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (viva voce), 8-0.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:03 PM.