

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Thursday, June 1, 2017

SPECIAL MEETING

5:00 p.m.

William C. Wetzel Reading Room
205 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Cardona called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Alicia Henry, Diane Hollister, Van Miller, Susan Mohr, Julian Westerhout, Alicia Whitworth, Alex Cardona

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Kiasha Henry, Mike Raikes

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeanne Hamilton, Maria Nagle, Vasudha Pinnamaraju, Caprice Prochnow, Steve Rasmussen

III. Introduction of Public

President Cardona asked those present to introduce themselves.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

V. Special Presentation: Bring it On Bloomington Comprehensive Plan, Vasudha Pinnamaraju, McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Director Hamilton shared that she and Alex had discussed that they wanted all the Trustees to have a base level of how the Library fits into the community, and had determined that these two great plans would accomplish this. She went on to say, that rather than have everyone do extensive reading on this, that both Vasudha and Steve could present a summary of their plans. After the presentations, there will be a discussion as to how the Library fits in, and the strategy for the Joint Committee meeting that will be held on Monday, June 19 at 5:15 p.m. in the Osborn Room at the Police Department.

Vasudha shared the high points of the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan with the Trustees. She shared that the plan was established in 2013, and how the timeline and economics has changed the landscape of the plan. Vasudha stated that the results of the plan show that the citizens of Bloomington are wanting a community in which they can walk, bike, and use public transit rather than a car. She distributed a map that showed the core of the community is 2.5 miles around downtown. With this, there needs to be reinvesting in the

downtown and the west side. Vasudha reviewed that the survey showed that library services need to be expanded, and the citizens that completed the survey were asking for the library to be a destination. Vasudha shared that the population forecast that was projected should still be in force. She entertained questions. One question was how accurate the population forecast in the plan is. She answered that while the future cannot be predicted she still believes the forecast to be accurate.

VI. Special Presentation: Downtown Bloomington Master Plan, Steve Rasmussen, City of Bloomington

Steve Rasmussen distributed copies of the "Downtown Bloomington Strategy," shared his background, and reviewed his role with the City of Bloomington. He went on to say that the Mayor recently appointed a "Downtown Implementation Committee" to lead the charge on making the items contained within the strategy happen.

Steve pointed out several items that have been accomplished in the last 3 or 4 years to continue to build a healthy downtown, such as adding apartments and lofts in the downtown area, the addition of the Green Top Grocery, supporting the Farmer's Market, improving wayfinding, protecting the downtown historic character, promoting a clean and safe downtown, developing more connections between downtown and nearby neighborhoods, and promoting the arts.

Steve talked a little bit about future for the land just south of the library. He stated that he is fairly certain that within the next two years, the solid waste transfer point and Public Works will be gone, and that there will be green space (all the way to Oakland Avenue) with a detention basin. He went on to say that currently the City is working on figuring out how best to move some of City Hall staff over to the Government Center. Steve stated that ideally the City would like to see one big facility that would house Parks & Rec, Water, and Public Works departments. He entertained questions.

VII. Discussion about Potential Library Expansion Project

The Trustees discussed what was presented, and their thoughts for the future of the library. The idea of a different location in the downtown area as opposed to the current library location was discussed. The consensus was that an addition or new building at this location is the direction to go. A suggestion was made to develop a "bragging points sheet" for the Library, along with talking points to share with the Council at the Joint Committee meeting with City Council on June 19.

Director Hamilton shared with the Trustees how the Joint Meeting on June 19 will progress. Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m., then at 5:15 p.m., the meeting will begin, then she and Alex will have 30 minutes to present with 30 minutes of discussion. She went on to say that the thought is to present the conceptual designs that Farnsworth Group developed and verbally share the estimated cost for each.

Director Hamilton stated that the information for the packet is due to City on Friday, June 9. She plans to get the information to the Trustees prior to this, so that they may review it. If any revisions are needed, there will still be time to submit them prior to the meeting.

VIII. Comments from Board of Trustees

There were no comments from Trustees.

IX. Adjournment

VAN MILLER MOVED, MIKE RAIKES SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Cardona adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.