

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Community Room
205 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Westerhout called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Trustees Physically Present: Alicia Henry, Dianne Hollister, Van Miller, Susan Mohr, Catrina Parker, Matt Watchinski, Julian Westerhout

Trustees Present via Zoom: John Argenziano

Trustees Absent: Alicia Whitworth

Others Physically Present: Liam Donohue, WMBD News, Jeanne Hamilton, Dave Hauman, Caprice Prochnow

Others Present via Zoom: Kathy Jeakins

III. Introduction of Public

President Westerhout welcomed those present and asked them to introduce themselves.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

V. President's Report

President Westerhout reported that it has been a busy month with reacting and assuring community members of our intentions and policies. He and Jeanne have been busy communicating with City Council members on the expansion. He went on to say that now it is our turn to approve the joint resolution under the approval items.

President Westerhout encouraged Trustees to communicate to Jeanne on their intended pledge for the capital campaign as soon as they can.

VI. Director's Report

Jeanne Hamilton was excited to share that she has made her way through all of the library policies and the policy manual is now in draft form, being reviewed by the Managers. She went on to say that in early December, the full Board will be given the draft to review. Jeanne stated that the 3P's Committee will meet in early January to discuss any changes and the policy manual should be available at the January Board meeting for approval.

There was discussion on the date and time for the 3P's Committee to meet in January. The tentative date and time decided upon was Tuesday, January 4 at 5:30 p.m.

VII. Fiscal Report Presentation

Kathy Jeakins, Business Manager, reported that the revenues and expenditures through the end of October should be at 50%. She went on to say that one or two more Property Tax distributions should be received at the end of November or early December. Kathy shared that the Book Shoppe revenues were over \$2,000 and Hoopla uses were over \$7,000 for the month of October. She entertained questions.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approve Minutes of October 19, 2021 Regular BPL Board Meeting

B. Approve Bills List of October 2021

VAN MILLER MOVED, CATRINA PARKER SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. Approval Items

A. Approve Joint Resolution Between the Bloomington Public Library and the City of Bloomington Relating to the Funding of the Library Expansion Project

President Westerhout stated that this Resolution was already approved last week by the City Council and now it is time for the Board to approve it.

VAN MILLER MOVED, DIANNE HOLLISTER SECONDED, TO APPROVE JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON RELATING TO THE FUNDING OF THE LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Approve FY23 Maintenance & Operating Budget

Catrina Parker, Budget & Personnel Committee Chair, shared that the committee reviewed the FY23 Maintenance & Operating budget and they are recommending approval.

Jeanne shared that this is a tough year to budget due to the previous year, being impacted by COVID and this next year, being impacted by an expansion project. She went on to say that the total number for revenues and expenditures looks quite a bit larger than previous years and this is due to expansion expenses.

Kathy Jeakins noted a few figures in both the revenues and expenses.

THE BUDGET & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY23 MAINTENANCE & OPERATING BUDGET.

Ayes: John Argenziano, Alicia Henry, Dianne Hollister, Van Miller, Susan Mohr, Catrina Parker, Matt Watchinski, Julian Westerhout

Nayes: None

Absent: Alicia Whitworth

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Approve FY23 Fixed Asset Budget

Catrina Parker, Budget & Personnel Committee Chair, shared that the committee reviewed the FY23 Fixed Asset budget and they are recommending approval.

Jeanne shared that there are transfers from the capital fund balance included. She went on to say that furniture for the expansion is listed on both this budget and the Maintenance & Operating Budget.

There was some discussion on this budget.

THE BUDGET & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY23 FIXED ASSET BUDGET.

Ayes: John Argenziano, Alicia Henry, Dianne Hollister, Van Miller, Susan Mohr, Catrina Parker, Matt Watchinski, Julian Westerhout

Nays: None

Absent: Alicia Whitworth

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

X. Discussion Items

A. Per Capita Grant Requirements

Jeanne stated that this is the next batch of chapters to review. She was pleased to share that we were able to check off most of the items in these chapters as well. Jeanne reviewed certain items in each chapter that were of note.

Jeanne shared that there is one more batch of chapters to review and then we are finished with the Per Capita Grant requirements for this year.

B. Library Expansion and Capital Campaign

President Westerhout shared that there are just a few more formal steps to go through and we are very, very close to the finish line. He went on to say that we have gotten strong City Council support, with a vote of 7 – 2 in favor of the expansion resolution.

President Westerhout pointed out that the resolution between the Library and the City Council includes the parking deck. He went on to say that mid-winter or early spring would be a time to be getting bids and accepting one to get started on the project. Then, a little over a year from that, having a grand ribbon cutting and having an excellent, expanded facility for the community.

Jeanne stated that she and Caprice Prochnow continue to work closely with the architects, moving forward with the plans. Things are starting to get finalized and over the next month, things will be wrapped up. Jeanne shared that December will be for reviewing everything and preparing the documents for the bid release.

Jeanne stated that with the news from the City Council vote, it has created a lot of openings to talk with more donors. She went on to say that Matt Watchinski introduced them to the Building Trade Group, so they were able to speak with the different trade Unions at the same time. Matt Watchinski stated that the Carpenter's Union agreed to a \$10,000 donation over the next two years, having provided an initial check of \$5,000 already. Jeanne shared that the group was excited about the Makerspace as there would be opportunities for them to do some programming in that space to demonstrate some trade skills.

President Westerhout thanked Jeanne and Caprice Prochnow, along with other staff that have been involved with this. He went on to say that there has been an enormous amount of work behind the scenes for a long time. He stated that there will be more work going forward and being this close, is due in large part to the excellent work that has been done, and the Board really appreciates this.

XI. Comments from Board of Trustees

Alicia Henry asked about the signing of the infrastructure bill and allotted money coming to cities, and what if any, will be coming to the library. President Westerhout stated that he assumes that the ILA and ALA will be combing through this to see if there are any library specific opportunities in there, and we would absolutely take advantage of this. Jeanne shared that there are a lot of broadband infrastructure opportunities too, and that ILA did decide on their legislative priorities for the next year. The three things are: Open Meetings Act training for district libraries; legislation to help with the high cost of eBook pricing for libraries; seeking out funding through the State budget for broadband and internet from the Illinois Century Network.

John Argenziano asked if the library currently had a 3D printer. Jeanne stated that the library does have a 3D printer that is used for programming. John asked what the library van is used for. Jeanne shared that is used for home deliveries, Pop-Up library visits, deposit collections at organizations, and Outreach events. John shared that he has been getting a lot of questions about the expansion and the library in general and asked if there is a script or statistics to share. Jeanne asked that he share the frequently asked questions and she will pull some stats together and responses for him to share.

XII. Adjournment

VAN MILLER MOVED, MATT WATCHINSKI SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Westerhout adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.