

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of the Village of Oak Park held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 held in person and on the Zoom virtual platform.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Trustees Matt Fruth, Susanne Fairfax, Colleen Burns, Madhurima Chakraborty, Ted Foss, and Kristina Rogers.

Absent: Trustee Virginia Bloom.

Also attending in person: Joslyn Bowling Dixon, Matt Bartodziej, Jeremy Andrykowski, Stephen Jackson, Lori Pulliam, Maya Ganguly, Rory O'Neill, Aaron Alonzo, Jack Bauer, Josh Soto.

2. Approval of Minutes

Approved the February 28, 2023 minutes.

3. Public Comments

Per the Public Comment at Board Meetings Policy, Fruth read aloud written correspondence from Peggy Conlin Madigan. The comments will be included in the library's files.

O'Neill shared comments with the Board. The comments will be included in the library's files.

4. Trustee Comments and Calendar

Fruth said farewell and congratulated Burns on her new appointment to the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 Board of Trustees, as this was her last board meeting as a library trustee.

Fruth requested a date and time for the Board to participate in the Oak Park Farmers Market.

5. Executive Director's Report

Bowling Dixon shared highlights from her Executive Director Report.

6. Staff Reports

Manager of Facilities Matt Bartodziej shared a facilities update. He said in 2022, the library moved away from traditional floor treating methods to a new method recommended by the floor's manufacturer that will providing a longer life and lower maintenance costs. He said the team in 2022 also focused on provcesses to replace Main Library Chiller 1 (in August), resealing Maze Branch's flat roof and tuckpointing.

Bartodziej said so far in 2023 staff moves and space renovations were completed, a new Creative Studio sound booth was repaired, and recertification of the Main Library's automatic materials handling system was completed.

Bartodziej said looking ahead in 2023, the Main Library's second floor Scoville Room will get a refresh with new furniture for more versatile use, a new second floor staff office, and new power and data outlets along the Main Library's second floor east wall.

Foss asked about the vendor the library is working with for future efficiencies. Bartodziej said the vendor works with other local government agencies.

Fruth asked about reaching out to Park District regarding state and local grants. Bartodziej agreed to investigate.

Fruth also asked if shelving is moved for floor refinishing. Bartodziej said it was a mix; some was done around shelving some was done during shelving and collection shifts.

Fruth asked if second floor locker room being moved resulted in staff storage concerns. Bartodziej said first floor locker room is accommodating current staff use.

Fruth asked about previous commissioning research and is it related to future efficiencies. Bartodziej said yes and no; the plan is to move away from Johnson Controls and go to an open network with open support. Same controls with better off-site virtual support.

Rogers asked what was done with lockers removed. Bartodziej said they were donated.

Chakraborty asked about a part-time staff member departure; Bowling Dixon said future work would be considered on a contracting role.

7. Financial Reports

Fairfax asked about spending in the art fund.

Andrykowski said the art fund financed improved art security. He said a bigger discussion is to be had about how to replenish the art fund in the future.

Bowling Dixon said Special Collections team is working on plans now.

Fairfax said she is interested in working on a future art committee.

Board discussion continued about how to restore and maintain art in the library, and address questions related to hosting a public art collection.

Chakraborty motioned to approve March disbursements resolution.

Burns seconded the motion.

Vote: all yes.

8. Additional Reports

Burns shared perspectives from the recent iGOV meeting including a May 12 meeting for incoming elected officials.

Fairfax said the Oak Park Township's senior centered has reopened.

Fruth said Council of Goernments did not meet.

Foss said the cooperation around PlanIt Green is exciting, especially related to what the Park District of Oak Park is doing, including the plan to have every lightpole as a charging station.

Foss asked how neighboring libraries are addressing sustainability issues.

Bowling Dixon said library directors met (Broadview, Forest Park, Bellwood, River Forest) and plan to continue to meet bimonhtly. She also said the library has a sustainability coordinator who watches sustainability efforts.

Chakraborty asked about Oak Park's Book Sanctuary status. Bowling Dixon said she met with Oak Park Village Manager and there are plans to present to the Village Board after April elections and new trustee installations.

Bowling Dixon said the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library approved a gift to the library of \$40,000+ to support events and initiatives including the library's new Creative Studio and the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop programming. The Friends annual book fair will be July 14 and 15 at the Main Library. Friend Board Member Paul Koko was recognized for 53 years of Friends' support.

Foss asked about follow-up with the Friends on establishing a sister city relationship with Havanna, Cuba.

9. Unfinished Business

Fairfax said she previously raised holidays calendar issues to discuss if the current library scheduled days closed calendar reflects modern thinking. She said she learned floating holidays are important for covering a variety of holidays for different groups. She shared her perspectives and her and Rogers' recommendations for the rest of the Board to consider,

noting that library staff currently does not have scheduled days off from mid-January through late May.

Rogers said this is opportunity to be a leader in this area.

Discussion continued about how to best balance needs of public and staff. Discussion concluded with library staff being asked to return with additional options for board review.

10. Adjournment

Fruth adjourned meeting around 8:40 pm.