

# **Minutes for April 22, 2025, Regular Board of Library Trustees Meeting**

## **1. Call to order and roll**

President Fruth called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Secretary Fairfax took roll.

**Present:** Virginia Bloom, Madhurima Chakraborty, Susanne Fairfax, Theodore Foss, Maya Ganguly, Kristina Rogers, Matthew Fruth

**Also Attending:** Leigh Tarullo, Co-Interim Director, Suzy Antell, Co-Interim Director

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

**March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting**

**March 27, 2025 Special Meeting**

Moved by Ganguly. Seconded by Foss. Approved by all present.

## **3. Public Comments**

Erin Fruth made a public comment thanking the library board for their service and providing recognition. Fruth also thanked her husband Matthew Fruth for his dedication and service to the library community and 20 years of service on the library board.

Steve Fruth made a public comment thanking his son Matthew Fruth for his service and dedication serving on the library board.

## **4. Trustee Comments and Calendar**

The board discussed the next regular board meeting, scheduled for May 27 where it includes the new board members being sworn in by the nominating committee. Discussed were the LACONI Trustee Banquet and Day In Our Village events, serving as a reminder for board members who are interested in attending. Bloom made a comment asking about plans for the 4th of July, specifically about if the library is having a parade this year and participation. Ganguly made a comment thanking Fruth for his commitment and support and all of the members of the board for the time, dedication and service along with staff. Chakraborty made a comment, thanking the whole board, with a special thanks to Fruth for his dedication and hard work into serving on the board while wishing luck to new and current trustee members.

## **5. Interim Co-Directors Report**

## **6. Staff Reports**

**a. Strategic Priorities Report**

In the Engagement section of the report, Antell highlighted the Native Gardening for the Neighborhood program, where it was a virtual and in-person event noting an amazing turnout of the program. In Learning, the Tech Tips monthly email and web series were highlighted as a way to provide patrons with step-by-step instructions on many things ranging from navigating the internet and apps, noting a 53% open rate and reaching close to 1,800 subscribers. In Stewardship, the repairs were made from Facilities, specifically the snow melt system making the work of Facilities an important part to library operations. In Anti-Racism & Equity, highlighted were the red cards provided to patrons at the service desks with information regarding immigration and how to exercise their rights.

In the Learning section, Tarullo highlighted staff member Jenna Friebe on her completion of being a part of the Children's Literature Lecture Committee and her attendance to the Association for Library Service to Children conference. Also staff member David Dzuiba was highlighted for his essential skills and role as part of the Information Technology team. In Anti-Racism & Equity, highlighted were the Special Collections team continuation with the processing of the Stan West collection and updates to the digital preservation plan.

**b. Library Core Use Statistics**

Discussed were the core use statistics for Q1, covering data from January to March. Noted were the trends in building visits, wi-fi use, and new user accounts.

**c. Additions and Terminations Report**

Discussed were existing staff taking on extra hours and support in Children's Services for the summer, along with new hires for the summer, from book bike assistants to interns.

**d. Staff Changes Report**

**7. Financial Reports**

**a. March 2025 Financial Reports**

The board reviewed the financial statements dated March 31, 2025. Discussed were line items: Parking lot revenue, Subscriptions, and Gifts from the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library.

**b. March 2025 Resolutions on Disbursements**

Motion to approve the Resolutions on Disbursements for the month of March.

Moved by Chakraborty. Seconded by Ganguly. Approved by all present.

**8. Additional Reports**

**a. Intergovernmental Committee (IGov):** Did not meet, next meeting date is to be determined.

- b. **Council of Governments (CoG):** Did not meet. Fruth noted that he will make sure to connect members with Elsworth and the next library board president so they will be on the meeting schedules.
- c. **PlanIt Green:** Did meet. Foss discussed students who were sent to attend the International Climate Conference in the previous year, noting that this year they will not be sending students to the conference due to criminal activity in the area, part of the Brazilian rainforest.
- d. **Friends of the Oak Park Public Library:** Did meet in March. The next meeting will be held on May 19.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

Fruth stated that the staff survey results are now complete and will be available and shared with the rest of the board, and to be shared with the executive director.

## **10. New Business**

### **a. Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the Service of Library Trustees**

Bloom read off each resolution recognizing and honoring the service of each library trustee:

#### **i. Matthew Fruth**

The resolution recognizing and honoring the service of Theodore Foss was adopted by unanimous consent, with no objections.

#### **ii. Theodore Foss**

The resolution recognizing and honoring the service of Theodore Foss was adopted by unanimous consent, with no objections.

#### **iii. Madhurima Chakraborty**

The resolution recognizing and honoring the service of Madhurima Chakraborty was adopted by unanimous consent, with no objections.

#### **iv. Maya L. Ganguly**

The resolution recognizing and honoring the service of Maya L. Ganguly was adopted by unanimous consent, with no objections.

### **b. Appointment of Board Nominating Committee**

Fruth named Kristina Rogers, Susanne Fairfax, and Annie Wilkinson to serve on the board nominating committee; where the members will meet immediately after the swearing in of board

members at the regular meeting, May 27. The committee meeting will be held before the regular meeting.

**c. Onboarding of Incoming Trustees**

Fruth discussed board orientation and training for the new board members, planning to share any additional information and resources available. The new board members will plan to explore those options in the following regular meeting.

**11. Closed Session (if needed)**

No closed session was held for this meeting.

**12. Adjournment**

Before the meeting adjourned, Fruth delivered his trustee remarks, reflecting on his two decades of service on the library board. Fruth spoke about the challenges and obstacles he faced, emphasized the vital role of public libraries, and shared highlights from his journey. Fruth expressed gratitude to the current board members and extended his best wishes to the incoming members as they begin their own service.

Fruth adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.