

# Minutes for May 27, 2025, Regular Board of Library Trustees Meeting

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

President Bloom called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Secretary Fairfax took roll.

**Present:** Colin Bird-Martinez, Megan Butman, Annie Wilkinson, Mika Yamamoto, Virginia Bloom, Kristina Rogers, Susanne Fairfax

**Also Attending:** Elsworth Carman, Executive Director, Leigh Tarullo, Director of Collections

## **2. Report of the Board Nominating Committee (Kristina Rogers, Committee Chair)**

Trustee Rogers gave a brief report, noting that five members expressed interest for the four positions that are open for the board officers.

## **3. Review the Roles of the Officers**

Bloom reviewed the roles of the officers, listed from the [Bylaws of the Board of Trustees](#). The roles of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Finance Officer.

## **4. Election of Board Officers**

- a. President: Trustee Rogers nominated Virginia Bloom as the Board President.
- b. Vice-President: Trustee Rogers nominated Susanne Fairfax as the Vice-President.
- c. Secretary: Trustee Rogers nominated Mika Yamamoto as the Secretary.
- d. Finance Officer: Trustee Rogers nominated Colin Bird-Martinez as the Finance Officer.

The motion to approve all nominations provided by Trustee Rogers for the election of board officers was approved unanimously by the board.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

### **April 22, 2025 Regular Meeting**

Moved by Rogers. Seconded by Fairfax. Approved by all present.

## **6. Public Comments**

Jenna Holzberg and Stasia Jamell both provided public comments expressing their disappointment about the Shakespeare Fest that was held at the Maze Branch on Sunday, April 27, noting that only 10 people showed up to the event. Holzberg and Jamell noted that many individuals at the event did not know the library had this event going on and the lack of connection and partnership with District 97 and

District 200 educators and stakeholders to attend the event to appreciate the literature and the art of performance from the event.

Sarah Perros, a teacher from District 97 gave a public comment expressing that she was unaware of the Shakespeare Fest event in time to attend it herself and let her students know to attend the event. Perros expressed interest in coordinating with the library on the event in the future and to include students to perform as a part of the event.

Zosia Holzberg gave a public comment noting the lack of attendance for the Shakespeare Fest event and how there were only a few kids in attendance. Holzberg remarked the event was fun and thinks more people could come next time.

## **7. Trustees Comments and Calendar**

Bloom discussed the LACONI Trustee Banquet event, noting the Executive Director and members of the board who wish to attend will be there. Bloom gave reminders on the Elected Officials Brunch and the Day In Our Village event, held on the same day for board members to attend. Discussed were the 4th of July Parade and the Friends Book Sale on July 11-13.

The board discussed releasing an additional statement related to the cuts of the Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) and the effect that may trickle down to the public libraries and provide a call to action for the community to take on.

## **8. Executive Directors Report**

Carman introduced himself to the board at this meeting, expressing excitement about having the opportunity to be the Executive Director of the Oak Park Public Library. Carman gave a brief overview of his work experience, noting working at the Oak Park Public Library back in 2011 through 2016 as a manager and his previous work in public libraries. Carman expressed thanks to the board and the staff with the interview process and his first day at the library.

Carman also discussed that being the new director and having new elected board members provides an opportunity to connect together on the shared values and initiatives of the library, specifically diversity, equity, inclusion and the continuation of being an anti-racist organization.

## **9. Staff Reports**

### **a. Strategic Priorities Report**

Discussed were highlights from the report such as the Book Bike, Shakespeare Fest, and the virtual program with Mychal Threats. Tarullo highlighted the Multicultural Fest and National Library Week.

### **b. Additions and Terminations Report**

### **c. Staff Changes Report**

## **10. Financial Reports**

**a. April 2025 Financial Reports**

The board reviewed the financial reports dated April 30, 2025.

**b. April 2025 Resolutions on Disbursements**

Motion to approve the April 2025 Resolutions on Disbursements.

Moved by Fairfax. Seconded by Butman. Approved by all present.

**11. Additional Reports**

- a. Intergovernmental Committee (IGov):** Did meet. Rogers reported on being on the chair of the IGov committee and shared excitement for the opportunities and potential IGov can present itself in this new role. Fairfax reported on the progress from the committee from when she started attending and noted the room for greater potential. She also stated that she will not be a representative for IGov going forward, but encouraged other members if they are interested to reach out to Bloom since each governing body has two representatives from their board that attends the meeting.
- b. Council of Governments (CoG):** Did not meet. Discussed was having Bloom represent and attend the meetings as the new board president.
- c. PlanIt Green:** Did not meet. Discussed was having Matt Bartodziej, Director of Facilities attend the meetings until a member from the board volunteers to attend.
- d. Friends of the Oak Park Public Library:** Did not meet. The board aims to get two members to be a liaison to the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library and attend the meetings.

The board discussed additional groups that a board member could attend and represent such as Out With Purpose and the Collaboration For Early Childhood with plans to obtain input from the community during the Day In Our Village event on additional groups/organizations the board should be at and represent.

**12. Unfinished Business**

**13. New Business**

**a. Resolution to Name Bank and Investment Signers**

It was approved unanimously by the board for the Resolution to Name Bank and Investment Signers where President Virginia Bloom and Finance Officer Colin Bird-Martinez of the board are authorized signers of banking and investment operations of the library.

**b. Board Liaison Appointments**

The board decided to table this action item for the next meeting upon review of who will serve as a liaison for the groups and committees discussed in the additional reports.

#### **c. Formation of Committees**

The board discussed the formation of committees with the idea of specific topics or initiatives to have a small group of people dedicated to a committee report to the full board. Discussed were several ideas of committees such as a transition committee to support the executive director during the transitional period, a board governance committee, and a finance committee.

The board plans to assign each person to a committee: Wilkinson for the Transition committee, Butman for the Governance committee, and Bird-Martinez for the Finance Committee to provide the goals and functions, to bring to the next board meeting in June.

#### **d. Board Training**

Discussed were board training opportunities and resources. Fairfax discussed Race Conscious Dialogues (RCD) as a potential option for training where a facilitator can provide a customized training. The board discussed putting out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for facilitators who can provide training on anti-racism while also seeking additional ideas and resources from staff. Discussed were training offered by Illinois Library Association (ILA) and Reaching Across Illinois Libraries (RAILS) for board members to sign up and complete.

#### **e. Strategic Planning Session**

Discussed was the planning of the Strategic Planning meeting, where it is usually held on a Saturday or Sunday in the summer for the board, library leadership, and the executive director to talk about the strategic plan. The board plans to draft an agenda and a summary of what the planning session will entail and plan days on the weekend to be available. Discussed were the option of having a facilitator come to the session to help structure the meeting.

#### **14. Closed Session (if needed)**

#### **15. Adjournment**

Bloom adjourned the meeting at 9:04 pm.