

LAKE FOREST LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

360 East Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Minutes -- Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President John Johnson welcomed all and called the meeting to order on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. in the Kasian Room, Lake Forest Library.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Jim Clifton, JoAnn Desmond, Josh Jackson, Andrea Lemke, John F. Johnson, Sue Shattock, Bob Shaw, and Heather Strong. Trustee Bertola was absent. Eight Trustees in attendance; a quorum was present.

Library Staff present: Catherine Lemmer, Executive Director, and Sameer Notta, Finance Officer.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Johnson noted that this would be the last meeting with Catherine Lemmer who is retiring from her position as Executive Director at the end of this year. Her six-year tenure was marked by a broad expansion of Library programs for patrons of all ages, an increase in Library staff and their professional development, massive upgrades in technology for Library operations and patrons, continuing operations during COVID and prudent financial management. She will be missed.

President Johnson offered the following proclamation:

Whereas, Executive Director Catherine Lemmer has performed with excellence;
Whereas, she has shown exceptional professionalism each day;
Whereas, our Library has advanced with her strong forward thinking;
We are very grateful she chose the Lake Forest Library along her path for these six years.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Romy Lopat followed up on a letter she had written to the Library Board regarding the recent settlement agreement between the City and the developer of the 705 Building (adjacent to the Library to the north), approved by the City Council at their October 17, 2022 meeting. A prior agreement between the parties allocated land/parking spaces to be conveyed to the Library following completion of Condo 2. The new agreement removed that conveyance, and Ms. Lopat requested the Library seek a legal opinion to see if there is any recourse for the Library.

The Library Board had already requested an opinion from Library counsel prior to the start of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION REPORT

No comments.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Jackson made a motion, seconded by Trustee Desmond, to approve the Consent Agenda (omnibus vote on matters 7(a)-7(e):

- a. Approval of the December 13, 2022 Agenda
- b. Approval of the November 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. Approval of the October 29, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes
- d. Approval of the 2023 Year Library Calendar
- e. Approval of the November 2022 Financial Reports

The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Strong of the Building Committee, presented a status report on the dome replacement project, and requested approval of a construction reserve of \$100,000 for the project. Additionally, another installment is due to Wiss, Janney, Elstner and Associates, in the amount of \$48,000. The Dome repair is projected to be completed by July 2023.

Trustee Shattock made a motion, seconded by Trustee Desmond, to approve both proposed expenditures. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

LIBRARY OPERATIONS REPORT

There was discussion regarding recent lower level flooding (Children's Library) and a solution proposed by Pasquesi Plumbing to install sump pumps in the outside window well in the affected area. Trustee Shaw suggested that sometimes cutting the slab below the area to dig trenches can be a cheaper long term solution, not as disruptive to the structure as it might sound, and not susceptible to power outages as sump pumps would be. Trustee Johnson agreed but was concerned that undertaking this activity while the dome was being repaired might not be possible, and might also not be as quick a solution before spring rains. President Johnson recommended that the Facilities Manager seek another opinion.

There was discussion about whether the murals were part of the recently completed inventory of the Library's art collection. Director Lemmer noted they were not included, but they will be assessed once the Dome repair is completed.

Director Lemmer announced that the Library was awarded four stars by Library Journal for the 2020-21 year. Only two hundred fifty-eight public libraries out of over 9,000 public libraries in the U.S. were awarded three to five stars. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the work of the Library Team during a time of unprecedented challenges post-Covid.

INTERIM DIRECTOR

The Search committee recommended offering a contract to David J. Seleb to act as Interim Director until a permanent replacement for Executive Director Lemmer can be found. Mr Seleb has served as Executive Director or Director of numerous public libraries since 2005, most recently for 9 years as Executive Director of the Oak Park Public Library (until February 2022). He is also a Lake Forest resident. Mr Seleb's first day will be January 9, 2023, and he will work with Director Lemmer to ensure a smooth transition.

Trustee Desmond made a motion, seconded by Trustee Shattock, to approve the offering of a contract to Mr Seleb. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

There was brief discussion around the Library's 125th anniversary in 2023, which is fast approaching. Trustee Strong reminded the Board that the Dome is scheduled to be completed in July, the same time as the official anniversary, and its unveiling could be a central part of the festivities. President Johnson urged the Board and Library staff to think about multiple activities to celebrate the anniversary that would appeal to all constituencies.

Trustee Johnson reminded the Board that the Library's long term planning (including a close look at all budget categories starting February, with the total Budget finalized in April), should broadly address what the Library's priorities should be going forward, and include ideas on how the space could be used to better address staff and patron needs, once the Dome is completed.

One final request from President Johnson, was to ask Trustees to respond to him with preferences for monthly Board meeting start times: Keep the start time the same or move earlier to either 6:30 or 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Desmond made a motion, seconded by Trustee Shattock to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



Sue Shattock, Secretary

Minutes approved by the Board on February 14, 2023