

LAKE FOREST LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

360 East Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Clifton welcomed all and called the meeting to order on October 10, 2023, at 6:31 p.m. in the Kasian Room, Lake Forest Library.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Jim Clifton, JoAnn Desmond, John F. Johnson, Bob Shaw (remote), Sue Shattock, Heather Strong, Emily Van Bel (remote). Seven Trustees in attendance; a quorum was present.

Trustees Absent: Josh Jackson

Library Staff present: Ishwar Laxminarayan, Executive Director, Heidi Krueger, Director of Patron Services, Joy Schmoll, Head of Communications, Jim Lee, Facilities Manager, Bledian Ajroja, Assistant Facilities Manager, Lori Rohrer, Head of Youth Services, Joy Schmoll, Head of Communications and Kate Buckardt, Head of Adult Services.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Larry Marshall, Jr. of L. Marshall Roofing (roofing contractor for the Dome project), thanked the Board and the Building Committee, as well as Wiss-Janney for their support during this project. He said it was one of the most rewarding projects he had ever been associated with and presented each trustee with a plaque that included a piece of the copper dome.

The Board thanked Bryan Bertola, who recently resigned as Trustee and Chair of the Building Committee for his service, particularly leading the Dome project to completion.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Clifton thanked the Friends for a smashing book sale, and shared that Executive Director Laxminarayan gave a short presentation at the most recent Lake Forest Preservation Foundation meeting, covering the completion of the Dome project, as well as upcoming events and process for developing the vision for the Library. The LFPF appreciated the update and will help communicate the Night at the Library event (as well as being a sponsor) and include information on the Dome in the upcoming newsletter.

Trustees Strong and Johnson attended a presentation by Steven Semes, professor of Historical Architecture at Notre Dame, which was sponsored by the LFPF. Professor Semes saw the Library from the exterior and said it was an architectural gem, and also included Lake Forest as one of his favorite cities.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT AND PATRON COMMENTS

President Clifton thanked the Reed Family Foundation for their generous donations to the Library.

FRIENDS OF THE LAKE FOREST LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Liz Jacobs, President of the Friends of Lake Forest Library (FOLFL) presented the results of their recent book sale which generated nearly \$114,000, a 10% increase over 2022. Over 3,200 attended and 200 volunteers supported the effort. This is on top of the Children's Book Sale in June which brought in over \$8,000. There is still one more sale coming up from November 27- December 23, the Holiday Book Bazaar. Also in attendance was Sandy Noble, the co-chair of the Sale and Jan Gibson, former President of the FOLFL and former Library Trustee. The FOLFL will contribute \$250,000 to the Remisoff Murals Restoration and Cleaning project, an RFP for which has just been released.

Coming up, the FOLFL will host A Night at the Library, where guests can enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine with music by the Lake Forest Civic Orchestra woodwind quintet. This after-hours event celebrates the Library's 125th anniversary. Other sponsors include Francesa's Intimo, Gerhard's European Desserts, Lake Forest Flowers, The Historic Preservation Foundation and the Lake Forest Civic Orchestra.

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK 2023 PROCLAMATION

President Clifton signed and read the following:

WHEREAS, October 15–21, 2023, has been declared National Friends of Libraries Week by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Lake Forest Library organize one of the biggest book sales in the region and in 2023 through a dedicated group of 200 volunteers raised over \$113,000; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Lake Forest Library have raised over two million dollars since their founding in 1976 that has helped to maintain and enhance Library programming, our historic building, our extensive fine arts collection, and more; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Friends highlights the fact that Lake Forest Library is the cornerstone of the community, providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past and present; and

WHEREAS, the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our Library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Friends' gift of time and commitment to the Library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Lake Forest Library Board of Trustees proclaims October 15–21, 2023, at Lake Forest Library as Friends of the Library Week and conveys its sincere appreciation for everything the Friends do to improve our Library and community.

Proclaimed on this 10th Day of October, 2023

STAFF PRESENTATION: KATE BUCKARDT HEAD OF ADULT SERVICES

Since 2012, Adult Services has produced *Lake Forest Reads*, a program to encourage Lake Foresters to come together and read one book to foster literacy, a culture of reading, and a sense of community. Lake Forest Library and community partners present a month-long series of events and activities focusing on themes in the novel, culminating in a series of Meet the Author events.

The upcoming Lake Forest Reads event will feature the book *The Seed Keeper*, by Diane Wilson. There will be three author discussions, first at the Gorton Center on 10/19 (interview led by Davis Schneiderman, Executive Director of the Krebs Center for the Humanities at Lake Forest College). Following that is a morning chat at the Library on 10/20, and finally an after-hours event at the Library on 10/21. All are free to the public.

Adult Services offers many other programs for enthusiasts of every genre, including Great Books, Poetry, Mystery and Non-Fiction to name a few. The Library also hosts Afternoons with Judy Levin who leads discussions each month on different titles, and Great Discussions, a monthly gathering to discuss world affairs. Adult Services also takes its programs to other partner locations such as Dickinson Hall and Lake Forest Place, to ensure those who cannot get to the Library still have access to programming.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Desmond made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda (omnibus vote of matters 7(a)-7(c))

- a. Approve October 10, 2023 Agenda
- b. Approve September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. Approve September 2023 Financial Report

BUILDING COMMITTEE

President Clifton announced that going forward, Heather Strong will chair the Building Committee, and new trustee Emily Van Bel will replace Bryan Bertola on this committee.

LIBRARY OPERATIONS REPORT

Director Laxminarayan recognized Teen Librarian Emmy Neal for being chosen by School Library Journal as one of four Librarians on their 2023 Best Books committee for YA Literature. This committee's list of best YA novels published in 2023 helps librarians across the country develop their teen collection.

Director Laxminarayan continued his exploration of regional libraries with a visit to Highland Park Library on 9/27. He also urged Trustees to attend the City Council meeting on October 16 as the results of the city-wide survey of residents will be presented to the public. The Library is included in the survey and was able to submit questions in advance so learning could be useful in identifying areas for further exploration with all stakeholders as we develop the next strategic plan. Director Laxminarayan also reminded Trustees to purchase a ticket to the Night at the Library event on November 3.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Laxminarayan announced that the RFP for the mural restoration project should be posted on the website by 10/16. There are about 12 firms in the greater Chicagoland area

thought to be capable of this specialized work. The hope is to conduct site visits in December after proposals are submitted and choose a provider before year end.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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 7:25pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shattock", written over a horizontal line.

Sue Shattock, Secretary

Minutes submitted for approval by the Board on November 14, 2023

Next meeting: November 14, 2023