

LAKE FOREST LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
360 East Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, IL, 60045

Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Clifton welcomed all and called the meeting to order on October 15 at 6:30 pm in the Kasian Room, Lake Forest Library.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present: Jim Clifton, JoAnn Desmond, Josh Jackson, Garth Pearson, Robert Shaw, Heather Strong, Emily Van Bel. A quorum was present.

Trustees absent: John F. Johnson, Vince Sparrow

Library Staff present: Ishwar Laxminarayan, Executive Director
Assistant Facilities Manager, Bledian Ajroja, Heidi Krueger, Head of Communications, Kate Buckardt, Head of Adult Services, Lorie Rohrer, Head of Youth Services, Joy Schmoll, Head of Communications, Tori Sergel, Head of Circulation and Chad Clark, Head of Digital and Innovation Services.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Clifton expressed condolences to Heidi Krueger on her mother's passing. He also expressed his anticipation for the staff reports on their library visits over the Summer.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Director Laxminarayan shared patron feedback including positive comments about recent programming and the Friends' Book Sale. Notably, a child who disliked the library has become a fan. Trustee Shaw inquired about a patron comment regarding the Library's policy on promoting local non-profit events. Trustee Strong suggested establishing a process to evaluate programming alignment. There was discussion on improving the visibility of event promotions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Jackson made a motion seconded by Trustee Desmond for an omnibus vote on matters:

1. October 15, 2024^h Agenda
2. September 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
3. September 2024 Financial Report
4. September 24, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The omnibus vote was approved unanimously by all trustees in attendance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF LAKE FOREST LIBRARY

Presenters: Nancy Meiling and Sande Noble.

Ms. Meiling and Ms. Noble reported on the success of the recent Friend's book sale offering commentary on that which made the sale easier to shop and display, the types of volunteers and local sponsors as well as earnings. This year, with increased sales and shopper turnout, total earnings exceeded those of the past two years.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Trustee Van Bel provided updates on the courtyard study progress. WJE is finalizing their report with intentions to present their findings at next month's meeting. Preliminary and inclusionary brainstorming meetings were held with The Garden Club and Lake Forest Preservation Foundation. Director Laxminarayan reported on HVAC control coordination, targeting completion by month-end. Trustee Strong requested urgency from Hoist to proceed with ordering necessary parts for the elevator updates.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION- STAFF LIBRARY VISITS

Ms. Krueger provided an overview of staff tours to surrounding libraries with the purpose and intent to see what the staff liked, disliked or found useful. Each department presented their comments and findings. The key takeaway is staff is eager to implement creative improvements with a focus on better space utilization and enhanced patron experience.

The Building Committee plans to meet with each staff section individually for detailed discussions. President Clifton reiterated board support for improvements and encouraged necessary updates.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Director Laxminarayan highlighted events that had been well attended including the mural presentation and a series on AI programming. Director Laxminarayan also mentioned two new libraries- Waukegan and Mount Prospect- to the Consortium.

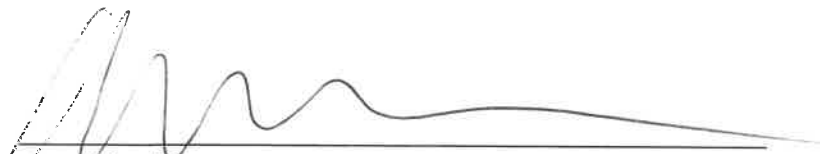
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Strong inquired about the levy assessment. There was minor discussion on the projected increase and growth factor.

Trustee Desmond made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jackson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by all trustees in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.



Emily Van Bel, Secretary

Submitted for approval by the Board on November 19, 2024

Next Meeting November 19, 2024

48th Annual Friends of Lake Forest Book Sale Notes

Successful sale
Fabulous Books
Wonderful weather
Fantastic volunteers

BOXES

2184 in 2024 2734 in 2023

GROSS sales

\$116,285.13 Gross up 5.8% over 2023 \$109,866.23

\$4260 in memberships at the door

\$120,545.13 TOTAL REVENUE

ATTENDANCE

2610 shoppers in 2024 (less than 2023 where there were 3254 shoppers)

2436 sales in 2024 (more than 2023 where there were 2343 sales)

Increase of 3.8% in number of sales

Average sale **\$47.74** Up from \$44.80

VOLUNTEERS

222 volunteers at the sale up 10%

57 regulars in the sorting room

279 total volunteers!

16 from Abbott

20 enthusiastic students from the high school

Many worked multi shifts.

Big thanks to Ishwar and his incredibly supportive staff, shoutout to Jim Lee and facilities crew.

Sponsors: Grainger, Uline, Sunset, LF Bank, AT Mechanical, Knauz, Fresh Market

Wonderful, cherished community tradition

Read, Donate, purchase, repeat.

Big board thanks for continuing support.

Since 1976 the Friends have donated:

\$3.2 Million to community includes almost \$3 million directly to the library.

(From the first 4 vertical files and 5 book trucks, to restoring the Remisoff murals)

49th Book Sale September 11-14, 2025 (looking forward to our 50th in 2026!)