



WESTMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Providing the community with the keys to lifelong learning.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES DECEMBER 14, 2021

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Board President Jason Fichtel on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at the Westmont Public Library.

2) Roll Call

Present: Secretary Heather Booth, Treasurer Kerry O'Connor, Trustee Joanne O'Malley, and President Jason Fichtel

Absent: Trustee Elaine Carmichael and Trustee Melissa Donoghue

Staff present: Director Julia Coen, Marketing Associate and Notary Public Aaron Hawkins, and Administrative Assistant Julie Olsen

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Appointment of Beth Krotiak to Library Board of Trustees

Motion: O'Connor moved to appoint Beth Krotiak to Library Board of Trustees, Booth seconded

Discussion: None

Vote:

Ayes: Booth, O'Connor, O'Malley, and Fichtel -- 4

Nays: 0

Absent: Carmichael, and Donoghue -- 2

Motion passed

5) Swearing in of Beth Krotiak as Trustee

Krotiak was sworn in as Trustee by Hawkins.

6) Roll call of the new Library Board

Present: Secretary Heather Booth, Trustee Beth Krotiak, Treasurer Kerry O'Connor, Trustee Joanne O'Malley, and President Jason Fichtel

Absent: Trustee Elaine Carmichael and Trustee Melissa Donoghue

Staff present: Director Julia Coen and Administrative Assistant Julie Olsen

7) Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the regular board meeting: November 16, 2021
- b. Communications log: November 2021
- c. Director's report: December 2021

Motion: Booth moved to approve the Consent Agenda, O'Connor seconded.

Discussion: Booth requested the January Director's report Snapshot of Statistics include a comparison of 2019, 2020, and 2021. Coen stated that she would do so, and that overall 2021 numbers are still below 2019's.

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

8) Open Forum:

a. Public:

Nothing.

b. Board: Krotiak stated she is happy to be here and is looking forward to serving out the term. O'Connor extended congratulations to K. Barnett and M. Biala for their years of service, and was sad to see that G. Nicoll resigned.

c. Director: Coen shared Trustee Carmicheal's Happy Holiday Wishes to the Board. The scheduled ComEd work has been delayed again, it is now scheduled to occur in January. ComEd has assured us that they will provide a generator so that the Library will be able to remain open on the day of work. The Illinois Attorney General's website is back up, Coen will send a link to the Trustees for the Open Meetings Act training. She is requesting all trustees complete the training and to send her their date of completion to be posted on the Library website.

d. Staff: Nothing.

9) Additions and Deletions

Motion: Booth moved to include Additions and Deletions with Bills and Salaries, O'Connor seconded.

Discussion:

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

10) Treasurers Report

Motion: O'Connor moved to file the Treasurer's Report for audit, Booth seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

11) Bills and Salaries

Motion: Booth moved to approve Bills and Salaries Report, O'Connor seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote:

Ayes: Booth, Krotiak, O'Connor, O'Malley, and Fichtel -- 5

Nays: 0

Absent: Carmichael, and Donoghue -- 2

Motion passed

12) Unfinished Business: None

13) New Business:

a. Board to consider a motion regarding the reconsideration request for the title All Boys Aren't Blue

Motion: Booth moved to deny the request for reconsideration and retain the title All Boys Aren't Blue in the Young Adult Collection, O'Connor seconded.

Discussion: Krotiak asked which category the book is currently located in and what are the next older and next younger categories. Coen stated that it is currently located in Young Adult, the next older category is Adult and the next younger is Juvenile; staff are currently working to divide Juvenile into elementary and middle school grades. Coen further stated that Young Adult is designed for high school and above, or patrons aged approximately 14 and older. Coen responded that the book states in its introduction that it addresses sensitive topics, so that readers and their caregivers can determine the appropriateness for a specific reader. Krotiak asked how the librarians decide which category to place a

book in. Coen explained that there are several sources of information the librarians use: the book's publisher's recommendation, independent professional reviews of the book, and which category other libraries place the book in. Booth stated that based upon her reading of the book and her professional background, the book is appropriately placed in the Young Adult Collection based upon the language and style in which the book is written and the age of the individuals in the book. Booth also stated that other books that address puberty and sex in a manner appropriate for older teens are located in the Young Adult collection. O'Connor asked which age group Young Adult is targeted toward. Coen responded high school and older though there is a range of reading levels within the collection. This book is intended for older teens. Krotiak asked if a 10 year old would be able to check out the book. Coen responded, yes, as is the case with all books in the Library. Fichtel stated he also read the book, and as a college English professor, it is his opinion that structurally, linguistically, and culturally it is written for young adult readers; he believes it is an important book for whom it is written, and as such, it should be kept in the Young Adult Collection. Fichtel also reported that two patrons wrote emails to the Board in support of keeping the books in the Young Adult Collection. The Board did not receive any emails in support of the request to move the book to the Adult Collection.

Vote:

Ayes: Booth, Krotiak, O'Connor, O'Malley, and Fichtel -- 5

Nays: 0

Absent: Carmichael, and Donoghue -- 2

Motion passed

b. Elections of Officers

Nominations:

O'Connor nominated Carmichael for Vice President, Booth seconded

Vote:

Ayes: Booth, Krotiak, O'Connor, O'Malley, and Fichtel -- 5

Nays: 0

Absent: Carmichael, and Donoghue -- 2

Motions Passed

c. Committee appointments

Fichtel made the following committee appointments:

Finance Committee: O'Connor, Carmichael, Donoghue, Krotiak

Bylaws & Policy Committee: Booth, Carmichael, O'Malley, Krotiak

14) Adjournment:

Motion: O'Connor moved to adjourn at 7:32 p.m., Booth seconded.

All in favor

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Booth

Westmont Public Library Board of Trustees, Secretary