



WESTMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

428 N Cass Ave, Westmont, IL 60559

630 869 6150

westmontlibrary.org

Providing the community with the keys to lifelong learning.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 15, 2023

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Board President Jason Fichtel on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at the Westmont Public Library.

2) Roll Call

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

Absent: Trustee Melissa Donoghue

Also present: Assistant Village Manager Spencer Parker

Staff present: Director Julia Coen, Assistant Director Colleen Seisser, and Administrative Assistant Michelle Mahlan

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of the regular board meeting July 18, 2023

b. Communications log July 2023

c. Director's report August 2023

Motion: Booth moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Carmichael seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

5) Open Forum:

a. **Public:** Gina Parrilli presented forms for books she would like moved to the adult section and addressed the Board with the following comments: Just one of the examples is *Flamer* and I know I tried to ask for this book to be moved to the adult section before. But it kinda depicts butt sex between two males. And then another one, this is a new one *Queer Ducks*, I mean it lists all of the terms of every sex person you could be: asexual, bisexual, cisgender. I mean like I don't know why. Are there better books for our children? And then also I'm assuming we are all part of the ALA American Library Board Association. I don't know if you are aware, and I'm assuming that Illinois will never get rid of the library board association, but the new ALA president she tweeted last year "I just cannot believe that a Marxist lesbian who believes that collective power is possible to build and can be wielded for a better world is the president-elect of @ALALibrary." I'm just letting you know who runs the Library now. And then I went on the website and your latest book recommendations for teens is gun violence, LGBTQ voices, and social justice and nothing about the Constitution or world history. I mean, yes, gun violence is a serious thing and we see what's going on in Chicago. But, maybe you should have the sheriff of DuPage County come speak about gun violence because yes, it is a serious thing, but usually it's criminals who don't obey the law. But, I'm just wondering if there are better topics for our children. I don't know. I wish we could do better for our kids, I really do. This social justice stuff, it blows my mind, it's uncalled for, it doesn't

have to be all the time. I know our Governor is all about this kind of stuff, but I think as a community there's so much more that our children can learn so much more than sex and social justice stuff. You guys can glance at the photos and let me know if your eleven-year-old should read that.

Laura Perrino, longtime resident of Westmont, hadn't planned on speaking but she addressed the Board with the following comments: Last time I was here was two months ago and my complaint then was that one way that libraries censor books, at least in my view, was to not order them at all and not put them on the shelves. And for those of you that work here, you might remember that I was really looking forward to a book that came out and that was on the NY Times best-selling list, and at that time only one library had it but it was like #12 or something on the bestseller list. We have got to get with the program, at least if it makes that coveted list, we should have it at least or more libraries in our system should have it. So my complaint was that I felt that conservative books were kinda being ignored. But I actually have a good report, in that I had a DVD, a documentary, and a couple books that I really wanted to read. It looks like Westmont bought two of them and they might even buy the third. So, isn't that awesome? So we do have a voice and you guys are listening. I didn't want the evening to go by without saying something super-positive. I don't know if anyone here gets to or has any say in ordering, say thumbs-up or thumbs-down, but if you do just a little rule, look at the bestseller list and see what books are hot and just plug your nose and order them even if it's something that you won't read because there are a lot of conservatives like me that love to read. So thank you very much for hearing me and I think that was three minutes or less.

- b. Board:** Trustee Booth wanted to point out that the last few times she visited the Library, she noticed the number of items checked out from the Library of Things and thinks it was a positive move to have the display by the front desk. Trustee O'Connor wanted to draw everyone's attention to the tiger on the website landing page and in the newsletter - it is original artwork by the Library's graphic artist Kerry. Trustee O'Connor's mentioned that adult services librarian Alex was helpful in finding books that his daughter was interested in reading. Trustee O'Connor mentioned that he is often reminded of Julia's philosophy about how staff do not own the Library collection but are the stewards of the material that belong to the public. Trustee Fichtel received an email from a patron which he read aloud that praised staff and services offered at WPL. The patron is a regular user and had read about recent issues impacting public libraries and librarians in the media and so she wanted to reach out and voice her support for the Library staff.
- c. Director:** Coen said new study tables for the first floor arrived this week and we have received positive feedback from patrons. The final youth furniture also arrived this week, which completes the furniture order for this phase. Coen will be meeting with the project manager Justin about the next phase of the project.
- d. Staff:** The Summer Reading program ended August 10 with the following statistics: 717 registered patrons, 604 active participants, 290 challenges completed, 5,473 badges earned, 9,795 books read, and 186,465 minutes read. Outreach events included National Night on August 1 with 156 interactions and Cruisin' Night Fire Truck Night with 262 interactions. At Fire Truck Night, fingerprints were painted on a fire truck canvas art piece that is hanging near the elevator on the second floor. Seisser worked with S.C.A.R.C.E. to re-home furniture that was no longer needed. The Library will have a practicum student starting soon who will be working with our Patron Services Manager.

6) Additions and Deletions

Motion: Carmichael moved to include Additions and Deletions with Bills and Salaries, Booth seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

7) Treasurer's Report

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

Discussion: Coen noted that in the Budget Variance report it appears we've paid more for SWAN services this year YTD than last year. This year we received the invoice earlier and were able to pay it in July rather than August. In the Special Reserves fund it shows an expenditure of \$938 for the parking lot which was mis-coded by Finance and will be re-coded to Youth/Teen Services Renovation.

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

8) Bills and Salaries

Motion: Booth moved to approve Bills and Salaries Report, Krotiak seconded.

Discussion:

Vote:

Ayes: Booth, Carmichael, Krotiak, O'Connor, O'Malley, and Fichtel - 6

Nays: 0

Absent: Donoghue - 1

Motion passed

9) Unfinished Business

10) New Business:

- a. **Board to consider a motion to approve the destruction of executive session recordings from June 15, 2021, July 20, 2021, September 21, 2021, October 5, 2021, and January 18, 2022.**

Motion: Booth moved to approve the destruction of executive session recordings from June 15, 2021, July 20, 2021, September 21, 2021, October 5, 2021, and January 18, 2022, Krotiak seconded.

Discussion: Coen noted that this is a routine task that is completed as part of the record retention policy.

Vote:

Ayes: Booth, Carmichael, Krotiak, O'Connor, O'Malley, and Fichtel - 6

Nays: 0

Absent: Donoghue - 1

Motion passed

11) Adjournment

Motion: Booth moved to adjourn at 7:22 p.m, Carmichael seconded.

All in favor

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Booth

Westmont Public Library Board of Trustees, Secretary