



WESTMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

428 N Cass Ave, Westmont, IL 60559
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westmontlibrary.org

Providing the community with the keys to lifelong learning.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 17, 2023

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Board President Jason Fichtel on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at the Westmont Public Library.

2) Roll Call

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

Absent: Treasurer Kerry O'Connor

Staff present: Director Julia Coen, Assistant Director Colleen Seisser

Also Present: Assistant Village Manager Spencer Parker

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the regular board meeting September 19, 2023
- b. Communications log September 2023
- c. Director's report October 2023

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

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

5) Open Forum:

a. Public:

Annie Delano: I'm just here to voice my support of the diversity that the library provides. I did want to add backtracking that I am a heavy user of the library. My family and I are here at least weekly if not more. We primarily use the youth services section, so I wanted to express my support for the diversity that the library provides. I have four kids and in particular they love graphic novels so in the juvenile section and the grade school section, that's where they go first and that is just their favorite thing. In those areas we find books about all different types of people, different lifestyles, different backgrounds, different viewpoints, just different experiences. I really value that my kids have exposure to all these things and I think they are so important. They are checking out books and learning so much about all different people, different communities, and different challenges that people face. And not only that, but I think the diverse collection that they have access to really also helps them generate empathy. And, so I think that's one of the most important things that books can do for them. So I want to say thank you to you and keep up the good work.

Jimmy McDermott: I recognize that this is not a platform for rebuttal, and my focus here is to speak solely on what I believe the purpose and function of what a body like this is. Of course hearing out citizens in a public forum is vital to

your individual and collective roles as public servants. As a citizen, I exercise my right and opportunity to publicly speak when I think this public body's time is being wasted by certain citizens bent on raising the noise level with empty challenges and false concerns teetering on arguments constructed by recklessly wielded terms and desperate wanton definitions. As elected officials, volunteering and dedicating your time to the literacy, education, illumination, and equity of our community, I am confident that you already realize the provisions of access for families and individuals to read as freely and wildly as they so choose is quite the opposite of indoctrination. Let that be the common sense that guides us. Thank you for your continued service and I leave you to the very noble and deeply appreciated task of ensuring the operational health and solvency of a treasured public institution for all of its citizens. Thank you.

Leah Conover: Good evening. I'm not going to read the same thing for a third time in a row but you can just imagine me reading that right now. Thank you all for the support to those that work in the library, those that volunteer to be on the Board, thank you, I appreciate it. All that I said last month still applies so I want to thank you guys for that. I'm really here tonight to talk about Illinois Reads, which is a really cool initiative that I'm sure many of you know about. I am on the committee that's putting it all together and I know that we have a story walk, at least one story planned, so I want to thank the library for supporting Illinois Reads. It's just a really cool event and I want to invite all the community to come in, and Spencer knows what's going on with it too because he's on the committee too, to come and help, we are always looking for more volunteers. The event is in early 2024. I also invite the community to come out to the local school board equity audit strategic planning committee meeting on October 25 as well as all the other committee meetings. But that is a big one coming up, so we wanted to invite the public to that one as well.

Adina Hoover: I am a proud Westmont citizen. I have lived here the past ten years and again I just want to give my support for all you do and what you give to our community. When I moved here about ten years ago, this was my first stop. This is where I came to learn about Westmont, this is where I brought my small child to the 1-2 year-old reading times, where we can come and get exposed to a wide range of topics and my son still loves that. I still love to see, as I push reading to him, that he can come in and I see his eyes light up with all the topics he is exposed to. Thank you for pushing that. He is not limited and that's a huge thing that our kids have to learn and reject what is coming before you. The world is knowable and vast and this is a place he can feel safe in and learn about that. Thank you for all that you do. I am here to support you. Thank you.

Angela Steketee: I have been a Westmont resident for almost 15 years. I love the library. I love everything the library stands for. It is one of the only places we can exist just being ourselves and not having to take part in the capitalist part of everything going on around us. You come here, have some time, meet some people, read some books, and educate yourself. And the best way to educate yourself is in everything around us - the good, the bad, the ugly, all of it. Personally I have taken offense to the opposition that come in and take snippets out of books to try and run an agenda. When, if that was the case, most of the books in this library would not be here if you just take a snippet and not understand the book as a whole. I'm not educated and understanding the book as a whole, but I know when I read I can understand the book as a whole. So, I just hope that everything continues the way it was for a diverse group of people, diverse education, and just having the books here. I appreciate everything you guys do and everything you have to deal with. Thank you.

- b. Board:** Donoghue is on the PSO board for Holy Trinity and they are having a trunk or treat event on 10/28 at 10 a.m. Carmichael mentioned the downtown trick or treat trail on 10/21, 11-1pm. The Chamber after hours will be on 10/24 sponsored by Old National Bank at 1 Centre in downtown Westmont from 5-6:30 p.m. Fichtel stated that Illinois Presents is an awesome program and he is glad we joined it. He has watched presentations by Jesmyn Ward, Colson Whitehead, Steven Graham Jones and they've been excellent programs overall.
- c. Director:** Coen mentioned that the Department of Labor issued guidance for the Paid Leave for All Workers Act that clears up some of the questions we had about that law. Coen will put this item on the agenda next month. Early voting

will be starting in February for the March primary. Illinois Reads Story Walk is planned for November at Ty Warner to help promote the program.

- d. **Staff:** Seisser shared with the Board our employee of the moment, Sarah Alvin. Staff In Service day was a success and she thanked the board on behalf of the staff for breakfast. Reminder that there is the trick or treat trail this Saturday, 10/21 from 11am-1pm. The Library will also be marching in the Frosty and Friends Parade on December 2. Sara Angel and Colleen participated in the Mayslake Healthy Living Expo and were able to speak with 51 seniors about the library.

6) Additions and Deletions

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

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

7) Treasurer's Report

Motion: Carmichael moved to file the Treasurer's Report for audit, Donoghue seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor

Motion passed

8) Bills and Salaries

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

Discussion: None

Vote:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: O'Connor - 1

Motion passed

9) Unfinished Business

10) New Business:

- a. **Board to consider a motion to approve resolution 2023-03 "Resolution Providing a Substantive Update to the Intergovernmental Agreement with The Library Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination ("LIMRICC")**

Motion: Booth moved to approve resolution 2023-03 "Resolution Providing a Substantive Update to the Intergovernmental Agreement with The Library Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination ("LIMRICC"), Carmichael seconded.

Discussion: Coen noted that there are only minor updates to the Unemployment Insurance program. The changes outlined in the resolution will be incorporated into the IGA by the LIMRICC attorney and a copy will be sent to Fichtel for signature.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: O'Connor - 1

Motion passed

- b. **Board to consider a motion to approve resolution 2023-04 "Resolution Setting Forth Financial Requirements of the Westmont Public Library for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2024, and Ending December 31, 2024"**

Motion: Donoghue moved to approve resolution 2023-04 "Resolution Setting Forth Financial Requirements of the Westmont Public Library for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2024, and Ending December 31, 2024," Krotiak

seconded.

Discussion: Coen stated that this is the first step in the levy process. It will be submitted to the County and the final numbers are ready in March. We can increase our levy amount by CPI and any new development. CPI this year is 5%. We don't know what the new development is yet.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: O'Connor - 1

Motion passed

c. Board to consider a motion to approve the Fund Balance Policy

Motion: Booth moved to approve the Fund Balance Policy, Carmichael seconded.

Discussion: Coen noted that two changes are recommended: Increase special reserve fund from \$150K to \$200K plus three years of maintenance cost and a reflection of practice that the board routinely checks fund balances at a minimum twice a year. Parker also added a language change to change "Unreserved" to "Unrestricted" which is more in line with auditor language.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: O'Connor - 1

Motion passed

d. Board to consider a motion to approve the Payee Check Positive Pay Services for Wintrust Checking account

Motion: Booth moved to approve the Payee Check Positive Pay Services for Wintrust Checking account, Krotiak seconded.

Discussion: Coen noted that this is a service that the Village finance department recommended for fraud protection.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: O'Connor - 1

Motion passed

11) Adjournment

Motion: O'Malley moved to adjourn at 7:27 p.m., Booth seconded.

All in favor

Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Booth

Westmont Public Library Board of Trustees, Secretary