MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
6:30 P.M.
Remote Board Meeting

Members Present: Adam Goodman, Rachel Hayman, Ruth Hays, Denia Hester, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Vaishali Patel, Benjamin Schapiro and Terry Soto

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Karen Danczak Lyons, Jan Bojda, Teri Campbell, John Devaney, Kim Hegelund, Connie Henegan, Lea Hernandez-Solis, Tim Longo, Heather Norborg, Jill Schacter, Wynn Shawver, and Jill Skwerski

Presiding Member: Shawn Iles, President

Call to order/Declaration of Quorum- President Iles called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was established at 6:38 p.m.

Citizen Comment:
Most community members either spoke in support of or opposition to closing the Central Street and Chicago/Main library branches:
Marybeth Schroeder Supports (written statement included)
Diane Kathryn Allen Supports
Eleanor Revelle Opposes
Cara Hunwick Supports
Danielle Geracaris Supports
Connie Conley Opposes (written statement included)
Nichole Pinkard Supports (written statement included)
Paul Hirsch Opposes (written statement included)
Michele Hays Supports (written statement included)
Colleen Egan Opposes
Rolanda S Burris Opposes (written statement included)
Trisha Connolly Opposes
Richard M. Kuntz Opposes (written statement included)
Tracy Fulce Supports (written statement included)
Alyce Barry Supports
Mary Rosinski Opposes (written statement included)
Julie Farley Opposes (written statement included)
Eric James (written statement included)
Clare Kelly Opposes
Juan Campoverde Supports the work of EPL
Pat O’Conor Supports
Linda Del Bosque Opposes
Wendy Welsh  Opposes (written statement included)
Meghan Shea  Supports (written statement included)
Theresa A Schreiber  Experienced technical difficulty
Michael Tannen  (written statement included)
Elizabeth Andrews  Supports (written statement included)
William Levine  Opposes (written statement included)
Margaret Weiss  Opposes (written statement included)
Barbara Shwom  Opposes (written statement included)
Steven V Johnson  Supports (written statement included)
Bonnie Varner  Supports (written statement included)
Fiona McCarthy  Opposes (written statement included)
Linnea Latimer  Supports
Tatiana Akamine  Opposes (written statement included)
Jason Perkins  Supports (written statement included)
Rosalie Ziomek  (written statement included)
Thomas J Hughes  Opposes (written statement included)
Trish Stieglitz  Opposes
Darlene Cannon  Opposes
Larry P Lundy  Opposed (written statement included)
Alex Leska  Opposes (written statement included)
Heather McComas  Opposes (written statement included)
Julie Kundert  Opposes (written statement included)
Angela Pisano  Opposes (written statement included)
Jared Dapier  Supports
Ben Gasbarra  Opposes

All statements that were submitted in writing are attached. Speakers who experienced technical difficulty joining the meeting or during Citizen Comment were invited to submit written statements that would be accepted and included in the minutes.

Consent Agenda:
A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the July 15, 2020 Board Meeting

Upon motion made by Trustee Patel and seconded by Trustee Schapiro, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Joint Task Force
A. Evanston Library Services: Defining a new Vision

What is needed to increase equity of service during the pandemic and beyond?
Reactions/feedback on new virtual and in-person library services?
Aspirations: What is needed for all of Evanston to emerge stronger after Covid?
Resources needed to create and sustain a path toward recovery and renewal for all?
Sustaining the “We are All in this Together” spirit?

The Board of Trustees of the Evanston Public Library and community members of the Racial Equity Task Force publicly discussed the questions reflected in the agenda. Honest observations and personal experiences were shared. The lingering question of Are we really “All in this Together” should continue to be explored.

Library Director’s Report:
There was no discussion of the Library Director’s report.

Staff Report:
A. Administrative Services Report
There was no discussion of the Administrative Services Report.

Board Report/Development:

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:
A. Renewal of Lease 900 Chicago Avenue (Action)
A motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Hayman, to discontinue the lease of 900 Chicago Avenue. Each Trustee responded to public comment and explained the reasoning behind their vote. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote with direction to notify the landlord that EPL will vacate the premises on or before December 31, 2020.

B. Returning North Branch to the City of Evanston (Action)
A motion made by Trustee Patel and seconded by Trustee Hays, to permanently close the North branch located at 2026 Central Street and return the operations of the space to the City of Evanston as soon all library materials, furniture and equipment are removed. Each Trustee responded to public comment and explained the reasoning behind their vote. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Upon motion made by President Iles and seconded by Trustee Patel, the motion to move into the Executive Session was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Executive Session:
A. Closed Session – Personnel (Library Director Evaluation and Contract)

Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Hays, the motion to move out of the Executive Session was approved by roll call vote.

Adjournment:
The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Hayman, and approved by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Submitted by Terry Soto/Teri Campbell