



MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Meeting of the Board
6:30 PM
Main Library, Community Meeting Room

As the result of an executive order issued by Governor J.B. Pritzker suspending in-person attendance requirements for public meetings due to COVID-19, Library Trustees, staff and guests participated in this meeting remotely.

Members Present: Tracy Fulce, Adam Goodman, Rachel Hayman, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie (on phone), Benjamin Schapiro and Terry Soto

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Karen Danczak Lyons, Teri Campbell, Tim Longo and Wynn Shawver.

Presiding Member: Tracy Fulce, President

Call to order/Declaration of Quorum: President Fulce called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was established at 6:33 p.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the July 21, 2021 Board Meeting

Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Goodman, the consent agenda was approved.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Together, We are the Library

Executive Director Danczak Lyons provided an update on the Asset Based Community Development workshops that are well underway. She reported that the core team for the community workshops met and made progress toward next steps.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Joint Task Force):

A. Joint Task Force (Update).

Assistant Director Campbell provided an update on progress made toward matters addressed in the equity assessment. She reported the installation of 5 new members to Racial Equity Task Force who met the week prior to begin a 2 year term - Michelle Judon, Joyce Miller Bean, John Perkins, Gulu Saiyed, and Esther Wallen. Campbell shared the strong positive feedback of staff who participated in the Indigeneity and Colonialism discussions that featured material from a collaboration between NU's Center For Native American & Indigenous Research Professor Patty Loew. Video footage collection continues from the various summer engagement activities.

Library Director's Report (written report provided in advance):

Executive Director Danczak Lyons shared highlights from the report including a preview of the "Happy To See You: September reopening programs and messaging. She shared that our Robert Crown branch lead, Miguel Ruiz is moving to the east coast at the end of the month.

Staff Report:

A. Administrative Services Report

Assistant Director Campbell invited questions after providing a brief overview of the written report. The library welcomed 3 permanent staff - Antonio Abah, Andre Poster and Tanya Mushinsky. The hiring process is underway for several vacant positions. Operating expenditures reached 54%, revenues 56% of the adopted budget. The new gender-neutral bathroom facility (floor 3), and family lounge (floor 1) are nearing completion.

Board Development: Trustees briefly discussed an opportunity to take part in a refresher of oversight responsibilities as well as onboarding of new members in a board retreat to be scheduled.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A. Expansion of library hours (Discussion and Action)

Executive Director Lyons provided an update on current operations at both locations that included rising attendance figures and rebounding circulation. Trustees were asked to consider aligning the operational hours of both facilities and expanding hours open to the public.

Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Goodman, the expansion of the library hours was approved unanimously.

B. Proposed Revisions: Donor Recognition and Gift Acceptance Policies (Discussion)

Wynn Shawver fielded questions about proposed updates to the existing policies recommended to bring EPL in line with current standard practices. Trustees asked for more of a representation of EPL values, and less confusing language. Revisions will be presented at a later date.

Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Goodman and approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Submitted by: Terry Soto / Teri Campbell