



City of Muscatine

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

The Library Board of Trustees meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Room

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Tony Loconsole called the Board meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Present were Steve Truitt, Diana Gradert, Diana Boeding, Scott Comstock, Kevin Knox, and Nora Dwyer. Absent were Mary Odell and Kraig Reed. Also present were Bobby Fiedler, Greg Benefiel, and Molly Garrett.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Comstock moved to approve the June 19, 2024 Board agenda. Seconded by Truitt. All ayes; motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gradert moved to approve the minutes for the May 15, 2024 Board meeting. Seconded by Dwyer. All ayes; motion carried.

4. RATIFY BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Fiedler, referencing the bills dated May 17, 2024, stated the LS&S entry was for the fee for their services. He stated this amount goes up about 2% every year.

Dwyer asked if Molly Garrett could give a brief rundown of the PLA conference she attended.

Garrett stated it was great and that she attended a lot of the sessions offered concerning what is coming up for libraries. She stated there was a lot of

discussion about AI and also on how to prepare for legislation that may come our way. She stated the uptick in censorship of books was amazing. The recommendation was for libraries to have policies in place dealing with this issue, which our library does. She stated the policy approved by the Board is well written. She stated the conference made participants think about the future and how to meet the coming changes. She then talked about the Miller Test and the three things that must be met when talking about obscene materials. They are:

- * Does the material appeal to prurient interests? Prurient interests refer to an excessive interest in sexual content.
- * Is the material patently offensive?
- * Does the material have value?

Fiedler then continued his overview of the bills.

Truitt moved to ratify the bills for May 17, 2024 and June 7, 2024. Seconded by Gradert. All ayes; motion carried.

Fiedler then talked about the trust funds. He stated the General Fund is in good shape and any remaining monies left in the fund at the end of the fiscal year will go into the Computer Rollover Fund.

Fiedler stated the Trust Fund and the Computer Rollover Fund are both in good shape.

Dwyer asked what the library does with the used computers, and Fiedler stated they are declared surplus and placed in the public auction.

Loconsole asked when the remaining money in the General Fund would transfer into the Computer Revolving Fund.

Fiedler stated funds will technically be available on July 1, 2024 but may not be reflected right away.

5. RECEIVE COMMUNICATION

6. COMMUNICATIONS - CITIZENS

7. STAFF LIAISON

Benefiel stated the library's new employee, Becca Fillmore, began working on Monday. He stated she replaced Katie Roquet in the Children's Department.

Benefiel stated other staff news would be shared by Fiedler.

8. FRIENDS' REPORT

Fiedler stated the Friends' group changed the registered agent from Nepple Law

to the Friends of the Musser Public Library, which was the final step in closing out the endowment fund.

Dwyer asked about the pilot book sale, and Fiedler explained it refers to the Friends' group bringing back its book sale.

Dwyer stated she feels the Board could be more actively involved with the Friends' activities out in the public, and Fiedler stated he would look into it.

Loconsole stated the Board is usually informed about their activities.

Fiedler stated their goal now is trying to increase both activity and membership in the Friends' group.

Boeding pointed out there is an opening on the Friends' board.

Fiedler stated interested parties should contact him or Xiaowen Guo from the Friends' group.

9. DIRECTORS' REPORT

Fiedler thanked Loconsole, Truitt, and Reed for their one year of service on the Library Board.

Fiedler stated that Becca Fillmore was the library's newest employee. He stated she has great skill sets and a good attitude.

Fiedler stated the Muscatine County Genealogical Society donated \$250 to the library as a thank you for its use of the library.

Fiedler stated that three library employees were selected to give presentations at the ILA conference in the fall. He stated that Emerson Taylor would talk about Sensory Story Time and Emma Stoffer on how to divide collections to make them more appealing to specific groups. He stated that he would be assisting Chad Yocom on his presentation about Channel 5.

Fiedler stated the soundproofing order was placed on June 10, 2024, and it should be installed in either August or September.

Fiedler stated he would be leaving for his ALA conference next Thursday, returning to the office on July 5, 2024.

Fiedler stated that Rachel Scholze, a library employee, is working on a proposed project to get students to sign up for their library cards. He stated students will be asked to sign up for library cards during the parent/teacher conferences,

which will give parents the authority to either approve or disapprove the issuance of cards. He stated the full proposal would be presented at the July Board meeting.

Dwyer asked Fiedler if he felt this might increase adult participation, and Fiedler stated it might.

Loconsole stated this activity would fit into the library's Strategic Plan.

Garrett stated she feels it is great that our staff can take ownership of our library, and it is also great that the community can take ownership of the library as well.

There was discussion about getting library cards put on the Wallet app.

Fiedler stated that if there is no opposition by the Board, he would ask the Board to approve the cancelation of the August Board meeting.

Boeding asked Fiedler where his conference would take place, and he answered San Diego.

10. BOARD TRAINING

- A. No Board Training in June

11. OLD BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request to Approve Fiscal Year 2025 Slate of Board Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Fiedler stated Board officers could be shuffled up, meaning that Truitt would become President and Reed Vice President, leaving the position of secretary open.

Boeding asked if we could keep the current officers, and Fiedler answered yes.

Loconsole stated he was okay serving as president for another year.

Knox asked if everyone was okay with the slate remaining the same.

Truitt stated he was good with serving as Vice President again.

Fiedler stated Reed would be elected in absentia but should be okay with service

as secretary again.

Knox moved to keep the current slate of officers for fiscal year 2025. Seconded by Comstock. All ayes; motion carried.

There was a brief discussion about possibly having a nominating committee to assist with the election of officers.

B. Request to Approve Illinois Township Contracts for Library Services for Fiscal Year 2025

Loconsole read the request as submitted.

Fiedler stated the contracts with the three Illinois townships are standard contracts. He stated the contract amounts are increased by 3% every year. He stated the contract amounts this year are Drury, \$4,589.03; Buffalo Prairie, \$3,441.77; and New Boston, \$2,538.67. He stated we have had these contracts for several decades.

Comstock asked if we had any idea about the number of patrons these contracts bring in.

Benefiel stated he could get that information. He noted that between the three townships, there are approximately 700 card holders but he was not sure how many were active.

There was further discussion concerning the township contracts.

Comstock asked how improved circulation translates into benefits.

Fiedler stated our state funding is based on our numbers, and he said the more we have, the more we get, which is currently \$25,000. He stated the funds from these Illinois townships is acceptable because they are under contract with the library.

Dwyer moved to approve the contracts with Drury Township, Buffalo Prairie, and New Boston. Seconded by Comstock. All ayes; motion carried.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Truitt moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:14 p.m. Seconded by Dwyer. All ayes; motion carried.

14. NEXT MEETING

A. July 17, 2024