

Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
5:00 p.m.
Rock Island Public Library – 2nd Floor, Downtown Library

Type of Meeting: Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Jenni Swanson

Call to Order: President Jenni Swanson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Attendance: Jenni Swanson, Karen Phillips, Pat Mahar, Jo Noon, Deborah Freiburg, Elizabeth Russell, Jacki Nelson, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh, Eudell Watts, III; Angela Campbell, Library Director; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director; Lisa Lockheart, Publicity & Outreach Liaison; Kayla Steffen, Business & Facilities Director

Absent: Maryam Alhamdan, RIHS Student Advisor

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Trustee Phillips made a motion to accept the January 16, 2024 Board of Trustees minutes as presented. Trustee Freiburg seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Trustee Phillips made a motion to accept the January 16, 2024 Art & Facilities Committee minutes as presented. Trustee Mahar seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Board Education:

The board was presented with Chapters 3 & 4 of Serving Our Public 4.0. Trustee Phillips had a few questions about the verbiage used. Director Campbell explained that a new version of the publication will be released soon.

Publicity & Outreach Liaison, Lisa Lockheart, presented the newly launched Social Stories on the RIPL website to the board. She explained that Social Stories are essentially virtual tours of the library, aimed to serve those with autism and/or social anxiety to prepare people on what to expect before they arrive. The project was put together with the help of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee (IDEA Committee). The Social Stories are located on the "Location and Hours" tab of the RIPL website. Lockheart shared that the Social Stories have video-described capabilities for the visually impaired. Trustee Mahar suggested floor plans to be included in the virtual tour. Lockheart reminded the board that Social Stories are meant to be simple. Eventually, with proper funding, the library may have interest in recording a video tour. The board gave praise and appreciation to Lisa and the Social Stories.

Correspondence:

The board packet contained an email from Marie Berman, in which she shared the strong positive impact RIPL had on her childhood, as well as reporting that she donated to the Foundation. President Swanson, Trustee Freiburg, and Trustee Nelson were very appreciative of the email.

The board was presented with an email in which a Sweden resident, and library card collector, requested a non-activated library card for his sister suffering from health problems. The board appreciated this email.

The board packet contained a letter from the State Librarian about the "Right to Read" legislation. The board voiced that they have seen many articles about the importance of libraries in 2024. President Swanson said she sent this letter to the City Council and did not get any responses. The board briefly discussed the comparison of Illinois and Iowa, and voiced disapproval of Iowa's changes to library boards.

Committee Reports:*Finance – Jenni Swanson*

President Swanson made a motion to approve monthly bills for January in the amount of \$66,431.66. Trustee Phillips seconded. With no further discussion, President Swanson took a recorded vote. 8 ayes: Phillips, Nelson, Mahar, Noon, Freiburg, Russell, Grandberry Pugh, Watts III; 0 nays. Motion carries.

Art & Facilities – Pat Mahar

Trustee Mahar asked the board if there were any suggestions for an art curator. Trustee Freiburg shared that she has a friend she will contact. Director Campbell shared with the board that the library was approved for step one of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for \$50,000. She explained that there are several steps of approval, and the money is contingent on the budget passing at the federal level. President Swanson reported that the public hearing for CDBG has already started, and the City Council will vote on March 25th. After this it will go to HUD, and then the library will be made aware of actual funding awarded. She reported that if there are no objections, we should receive the \$50,000 that Director Campbell applied for. President Swanson reminded the board that the council pledged \$165,000 for the first-floor restrooms on top of potential CDBG funds.

Personnel & Policy – Debbie Freiburg

Trustee Freiburg reported that the Personnel & Policy Committee met at 4pm, directly before the current board meeting. The policies are ready for approval at the March board meeting.

Planning & Community Relations – Karen Phillips

Trustee Phillips reported that there is a Planning & Community Relations Committee meeting on Thursday, February 22, at 4:30pm at Watts-Midtown. Director Campbell shared that she already sent the agenda and packet.

Foundation Update:

Foundation Director, Kathy Lelonek, shared that the Foundation met on February 8th, 2024, and will meet again on May 2nd, 2024 at 4pm. She reported that the PALS book sale in January raised \$1,200. The quarterly book sales were a great idea. The next book sale will be April 26-27 from 10am-1pm. The Foundation is also working on a beautification project on the south side, in which they have great

volunteers planting flowers. They also plan to beautify the area around the Downtown Library's fountain. The Food for Thought event this year is at the Hauberg Carriage House on June 27th from 6-8:30pm. They reserved the space for a great deal, and the outdoor space is included too. Lelonek shared that Trustee Watts III is finding chefs for the event. There will be a wine pull and a silent auction. Lelonek's goal is to receive 100% participation from the foundation and the board. Sponsorship letters were mailed out, as well as National Library Week charity mailers.

Administrator Reports:

Director Campbell shared there is a lot of work to be done at the moment. Winter Reading is almost over, with 77% of their goal achieved. She reported having a great time at the QC Leadership cohort and is learning a lot. She may be late at Thursday's Planning & Community Relations committee meeting due to the cohort ending at 4pm. She reported that despite closing the library for three days in January due to winter storms, statistics are still fantastic.

President Swanson gave acknowledgement to Campbell's city council presentation. The group agreed that it was impressive. She shared that the video is available on the city's website for those who missed it.

The next MBAPLD meeting is April 25, at 4pm, at the Southwest Branch.

Unfinished Business:

Art Curation Project – Updates

Trustee Mahar shared pictures from the Geneseo Library, where they have rotating art displays hanging from wires. The board agreed that it looked great. Director Campbell asked Trustee Mahar to send links of the hardware needed to do a similar display.

Slate of Officers Discussion

President Swanson shared that the roles of President, Vice President, and Secretary, are all due for voting at the March meeting. Secretary Freiburg would like to stay in her role. Vice President Russell would like to stay in her role. Swanson will remain as president, unless another trustee would like to do so. President Swanson reminded the board that if they are interested in running for one of these roles, contact Director Campbell.

New Business:

Trustee Noon made a motion to approve the CY 2023 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) for submission. Trustee Grandberry Pugh seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Trustee Watts III made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02, pertaining to the partial release of closed session minutes. Trustee Phillips seconded. No further discussion. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Information Sharing - Documents included in the Board Packet

1. Unique Management Reports
2. Standing Committees List (shared at each meeting)

Trustee Phillips reported that her contact information needs to be updated. President Swanson reminded the board members that they can join or change committees when the term is over on April 30th.

3. Playgroup Testimonial

Trustee Phillips voiced that the playgroup sounds great.

4. Facebook Responses

Director Campbell explained that Lockheart made a post on the RIPL Facebook page asking our followers to comment what they like about the Watts-Midtown Branch, with the hopes of a response being published in the Illinois Library Association (ILA) official magazine.

5. Emily Tobin C2E2 2023 Report

The board agreed that the report was very thorough.

6. *QC Business Journal Article* about Leadership QC Cohort -

Director Campbell shared that the group is fun and she is gaining a lot from the experience.

Executive Session: Not needed.

Announcements:

- The next Board Meeting is on March 19, 2024 at 5pm at the Downtown Library.
- Trustees Noon, Nelson, and Phillips are unable to attend the March meeting.
- Trustees Noon, Freiburg, and Russell are unable to attend the April meeting.

Adjournment:

Trustee Phillips made a motion to adjourn at 5:37pm. Trustee Russell seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote. All ayes, no nays. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kayla Steffen, Business & Facilities Director