

Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
5:00 p.m.
Rock Island Public Library – 2nd Floor, Downtown Library

Type of Meeting: Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Attendance: Jenni Swanson, Karen Phillips, Pat Mahar (arrived at 5:06pm), Jo Noon, Deborah Freiburg, Elizabeth Russell, Jacki Nelson, Eudell Watts, III; Angela Campbell, Library Director; Kayla Steffen, Business & Facilities Director; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director; Maryam Alhamdan, RIHS Student Advisor.

Absent: Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes:

Trustee Phillips made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes for November 21, 2023. Trustee Noon seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Trustee Watts III made a motion to accept the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting minutes for November 21, 2023. Trustee Phillips seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Board Education: Director Campbell advised the Board will begin with the state standards in January.

Correspondence: The Board reviewed a thank you to Anna and Karrah for their exemplary service.

Committee Reports:

Finance – Jenni Swanson

President Swanson made a motion to approve monthly bills for November in the amount of \$44,502.57. Trustee Phillips seconded. Trustee Phillips asked about the “Snow Removal” descriptor, considering we haven’t had any snow. Director Campbell explained that the same company does snow removal and mowing/landscaping. The Library is using carryover money for that company, which was originally put into the system as “Snow Removal.” After a small chuckle from the Board, President Swanson took a recorded vote: 7 Ayes – Watts, Phillips, Freiburg, Mahar, Nelson, Noon, and Russell; 0 Nays; 1 Absent, Grandberry-Pugh.

President Swanson updated the Board that the City Council has approved \$165,000 to go towards the ADA bathroom renovations at the Downtown Library. The Board was very appreciative. She also shared that the City Council passed the Calendar Year 2024 budget, which includes the EAV increase of 7.66%

for the library. The Board thanked President/Aldерwoman Swanson for her persistence and representation of the library.

Art & Facilities – Pat Mahar

Director Campbell gave an update on the ADA restroom remodel project, stating that it may be much more involved than originally anticipated. She is currently working with an architect to get the data needed to apply for the CDBG funds.

Committee Chair Mahar set a meeting for January 16, at 4pm, to discuss the CIP projects for the Downtown Library and the potential Art Curation project at Watts-Midtown Branch.

Personnel & Policy – Debbie Freiburg

Committee Chair Freiburg set a quarterly policy review meeting for February 20, at 4pm.

Planning & Community Relations – Karen Phillips

Committee Chair Phillips thanked everyone who helped out with the 120th Birthday Party!

Committee Chair Phillips set a committee meeting for February 22, 4pm, at the Watts-Midtown Branch.

Foundation Updates:

Foundation Director Lelonek announced that the next Foundation meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 4pm, at the Downtown Library. She is currently working with the Foundation Treasurer on the year end financials, as well as prepping for the upcoming audit. She has recently met with some potential legacy donors who are interested in supporting our literacy efforts in their estate planning. Finally, we have recently received distributions from the Lowell Johnson Trust and the Louis McCarty Foundation.

Administrator Reports

Director Campbell referred the Board to her written report and asked if anyone had any questions. She highlighted a few things from the report, but mostly talked about how great statistics were for this year.

Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District will hold its next regular meeting on January 25, at 4pm, at the Southwest Branch

Unfinished Business

The Board cheered that the South Parking Lot is now officially owned by the Rock Island Public Library!

The Art Curation project discussion will get underway at the Art & Facilities meeting on January 16th.

Following the executive session, Trustee Freiburg made a motion to approve the 2023 Performance Evaluation of the Library Director, and any associated merit/benefit increase. Trustee Watts III

**Represents a potential voting item*

seconded. President Swanson took a recorded vote: 7 Ayes – Watts, Phillips, Freiburg, Mahar, Nelson, Noon, and Russell; 0 Nays; 1 Absent, Grandberry-Pugh.

New Business

Trustee Russell made a motion to approve the GWI for non-affiliated library employees at the same rate set by City Council, or at 2.75%, whichever is greater. Trustee Phillips seconded. President Swanson announced that the City Council approved 2.75%. Director Campbell stated that the affiliated GWI for 2024 is also 2.75%. With no further discussion President Swanson took a recorded vote: 7 Ayes – Watts, Phillips, Freiburg, Mahar, Nelson, Noon, and Russell; 0 Nays; 1 Absent, Grandberry-Pugh.

Trustee Noon made a motion to approve the 2024 non-resident fee of \$128, by way of the general mathematical formula. Trustee Nelson seconded. President Swanson took a recorded vote: 7 Ayes – Watts, Phillips, Freiburg, Mahar, Nelson, Noon, and Russell; 0 Nays; 1 Absent, Grandberry-Pugh.

Trustee Mahar made a motion to approve the updated version of the “Collection Development Policy.” Trustee Freiburg seconded. Director Campbell explained that this was necessary to update for the library to receive its state funding. With no further discussion, President Swanson took a voice vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Director Campbell opened the discussion on the relevance of the “Statement of Concern About Library Resources” Policy & Form. She explained that by keeping the policy and form, the library staff would be able to provide something to an angry patron to allow them to be heard. However, due to the change in the law, banning, reclassifying, or removing the item from a specific section cannot happen if we want to remain eligible for state funding. The Board agreed that the policy and form will stay on the books. No motion or voting was necessary.

Trustee Noon made a motion to approve the Josef Pierre Nuyttens Abraham Lincoln etching, donated by Mark Prebyl. Trustee Russell seconded. The Board was curious where it would be hung. Director Campbell said that it could go next to the Lincoln painting in the Rotunda, or in the Local History room on the first floor. President Swanson took a voice vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Information Sharing

Director Campbell shared the Unique Management Reports, which still show a return on investment.

The Board received their standing committees list, which is shared at each meeting.

Director Campbell included her Winter Weather Spotter Training certificate and provided a brief overview of what was learned.

Executive Session –

Trustee Russell made a motion to go into closed session at 5:37pm for Matters of Personnel – 5 ILCS 120/2c Exception 1, “Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific

**Represents a potential voting item*

employee of the public body.” Trustee Noon seconded. President Swanson took a recorded vote: 7 Ayes – Watts, Phillips, Freiburg, Mahar, Nelson, Noon, and Russell; 0 Nays; 1 Absent, Grandberry-Pugh.

Trustee Watts III made a motion to return to open session at 5:52pm. Trustee Russell seconded. President Swanson took a recorded vote: 7 Ayes – Watts, Phillips, Freiburg, Mahar, Nelson, Noon, and Russell; 0 Nays; 1 Absent, Grandberry-Pugh.

Following the executive session, the Board of Trustees returned to “Old Business” to vote on the Library Director’s evaluation in open session, reflected in the minutes above.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting – January 16, 2024 at 5pm, Downtown Library

Adjournment

Trustee Watts III made a motion adjourn at 5:55pm. Trustee Russell seconded. President Swanson took a voice vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Campbell
Library Director