



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
February 20, 2024

Roll call and introduction of attendees

The Davenport Public Library Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Steve Imming on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 12:03 p.m. The meeting was held at the Main Library in Meeting Room C. Board members present: Malavika Shrikhande, Amanda Motto (until 1:10), Laura Genis, Judie Lance, Michael Hustedde and Steve Imming. Tom Engelmann arrived at 12:07. Sylvia Roba and Joe Heinrichs were absent. Staff present: Lexie Reiling, Jennifer Williams, Tracy Moore, Izzy Noble and Kasey Shipley. Guest: City Council member Marion Meginnis.

Consent Agenda

Shrikhande motioned to approve the consent agenda and Hustedde seconded the motion. Shrikhande, Motto, Genis, Lance, Hustedde and Imming all approved.

Public with Comment

Seeing no one, Imming moved to the next item.

Reports and Communications

FRIENDS Report
No report, per Reiling.

Personnel
Motto had nothing to report.

Advocacy
Shrikhande shared there was an IDEA team meeting last week that she attended. The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility team is working on selecting training topics for staff and those links will be shared with the Board as well. She shared a flyer for an event for Every Campus a Refuge to be held at St Ambrose on February 22. The founder of the program will be speaking. Shrikhande has been appointed to the Center for Nonprofit Excellence's new advisory committee. She spoke with a representative of River Bend Food Bank at a recent meeting of the committee and they are interested in working with the Library.

Finance
Engelmann noted the budget recap reflects spending is on track for the year. He said it is nice to see the Library Levy balance on the report as it is still Library money.

Director's Report



Reiling reported in the absence of the Library Director. The Children's Area project exceeded the fundraising goal so when work is done at Main by Burgeon Group in the fall, there will also be more installation at Eastern to include reading nooks and additional interactives on the wall past the whirligig and existing interactives. Shrikhande commented on the great social media posts showing the new spaces.

Council Liaison

Meginnis noted the construction of the roundabout off of the Arsenal Bridge may impact those coming to the Main Library. Tremont to Third on River Drive will also be down to two lanes, one in each direction with no turns, for some time while flood resiliency work is completed. A heads-up to patrons coming to the Library may be something to share. There is currently a low chance for flooding this spring. Party in the Park program will be back this summer. Cork Hill, Whalen, Sunderbruch and Lindsay Parks will be the locations. Budget meetings continue and she thanked Imming and Collins for their steadfast attendance. The State has extended the budget approval timeline due to a property tax mailing that needs to go out. With five new members on Council, she will encourage them to learn more about the Library. Regarding the recent legislation, Meginnis noted she sent out information to her ward constituents via her personal email and social media.

New Business

The first item of new business was to approve changes to Administrative Policy 2.7: Personal Appearance. Reiling shared that staff was polled late last year for suggestions that would make coming to work more appealing. One of the suggestions repeated was to wear blue jeans every day. This is in line with what other local libraries have for a dress code. There are other changes to the document to tidy up some of the language. Engelmann motioned to approve with a second by Lance. One typo was noted by Motto that will be fixed. With that amendment Motto, Genis, Lance, Engelmann, Hustedde, Shrikhande and Imming all approved.

The second item of new business was to discuss Library-related pending legislation. The good news is that all the bills that negatively impacted Libraries did not make it through the funnel. But, they may come back if tied to spending bills. One bill still alive would allow cities to have a special library levy. Imming noted it would take a new referendum to bring back the special library levy in Davenport if the bill succeeds. Two other bills include an act establishing the Iowa Imagination Library requiring local funding and a bill related to contracts between libraries and publishers of online materials such as e-books that would take away metered titles. Reiling is unclear on the intent of the e-book bill and how it would impact the Library in practice. The Library has created an Advocacy Toolkit, an 8-page document on how supporters of the Library can share their thoughts with elected officials and their personal networks. Reiling noted that Cedar Rapids Public Library was very helpful as Davenport put together the document. Meginnis will encourage other council members to invite Collins to their ward meetings as he was a wonderful resource when he attended her ward meeting last year. Imming suggested Trustees attend a ward meeting in their neighborhood; let them know you are a Trustee with the Library. He has



also spoken to two of the five new council members extending an invitation to meet with Collins or himself.

Shrikhande noted that the Iowa Library Association (ILA) is updating their website and social media as needed with any new information on legislation impacting libraries.

The third item of new business was to discuss Public with Comment per Bylaws. This item was prompted by the City Council changing their public with comment guidelines and Imming wanted to see if there was anything in the Bylaws that needed changed. With much discussion, there was consensus to eliminate the third sentence under Art 1, Sec 2, regarding making a request to speak known to the Board Secretary prior to the meeting. This will be looked at when Bylaws are next reviewed.

President's Comments

Imming shared some items he would like the Board to address in the next few meetings on how to select officers which is done every two years and due in July. A succession plan, nominations or a nominating committee are some ideas. Another potential discussion topic is how the Director's evaluation is completed and if it can be done in closed session due to concern of irreparable harm. Information he has received from the Law Librarian through the State Library has advised there have been challenges taken to the Iowa Public Information Board over cases such as these. One way to avoid having to do an evaluation in an open session is to have a committee such as the Personnel Committee perform the evaluation without a quorum. If there is state legislation that changes the way libraries are governed, the Board may have to address issues related to those laws. The last item is to let any good candidates for the FRIENDS' Board know they are looking for new members.

Board Training

Izzy Noble, the Early Literacy Coordinator, presented information to the Trustees, primarily on 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, from 12:59-1:28 p.m. She included descriptions of programs the Library presents for the three different age groups and statistical information on participation over the years since its inception. A special thanks was given to the Customer Service, Marketing, Outreach and Youth Services departments for the work they put into promoting 1000 Books and the programs provided that encourage participation.

Adjourn

With no further business, Engelmann motioned to adjourn at 1:28 p.m. Genis seconded and all approved.