

Washington District Library Board met on June 21, 2022, and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Linda Fitzgerald.

Members present: Joann Bailey, Deb Dukes, Stacey Morris, Joan Ruppman, Stacy Smith, Shelby Yocum, and Linda Fitzgerald.

Also present: Lexie Walsh (Director), and Ali Dixon (Recording Secretary).

Recognition of visitors: There were ten members of the public present including Sharon Watson, Lorena Cary, Renee Pierce, David Price, Kathleen Wunder, Mark Dukes, Diane Murphy, Barb Childers, Adam Saatkamp, and Cindy Hawotte.

Public Comment: Sharon Watson, David Price, Kathleen Wunder, and Lorena Cary all made public comment in support of the Sunnyland branch remaining open and thanking the board for reopening the discussion on the topic.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

1. Minutes of Meetings
  - a. 05.16.22 Citizens' Concerns Committee Minutes
  - b. 05.16.22 Executive Committee Minutes
  - c. 05.17.22 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - d. 05.24.22 Special Board Meeting Minutes
2. Financial Statements
  - a. Check Register—June
  - b. Budget Worksheet—June

Stacy Smith asked to pull the budget worksheet. She pointed out several observations on the budget worksheet indicating that the budgeting process has been accurate and that the finances are exactly what was predicted for the fiscal year. Linda Fitzgerald pointed out that amount unspent was almost \$90,000 leaving her with concerns on the accuracy of using the approved budget for forecasting as opposed to actual expenses. Joan Ruppman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Joann Bailey seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Deb Dukes, yes; Stacey Morris, yes; Joan Ruppman, yes; Stacy Smith, yes; Shelby Yocum, yes; Joann Bailey, yes; and Linda Fitzgerald, yes. The motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Stacy Smith informed the board on a meeting with the bank about the interest rates on CDs and future reinvestment plans that were not covered in the treasurer's report. Stacey Morris made a motion to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for audit. Deb Dukes seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Stacey Morris, yes; Joan Ruppman, yes; Stacy Smith, yes; Shelby Yocum, yes; Joann Bailey, yes; Deb Dukes, yes; and Linda Fitzgerald, yes. The motion passed.

### **Director's Report\*\***

Lexie Walsh gave her director's report over the following topics: customer service & community relations, organizational growth, administration & human resource management, financial management/legal compliance/fundraising, and board of trustees relationship. In the discussion of the board of trustees relationship, Lexie informed the board that she would need two volunteers to review closed meeting minutes before the July board meeting. Stacy Smith and Deb Dukes volunteered. Lexie also announced that she would ask for two volunteers at the next meeting to review all of the FY22 meeting minutes.

### **Approve Budget & Appropriations Ordinance**

Lexie Walsh introduced the budget & appropriations ordinance, explaining that it was the same document that had been reviewed over the last few months. Stacy Smith drew the rest of the board's attention to the comparison between the current and upcoming ordinance, pointing out the 2.4% revenue increase and 6% cost increase, as well as the resulting gap. Stacey Morris made a motion to approve the budget & appropriations ordinance. Deb Dukes seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Joan Ruppman, yes; Stacy Smith, yes; Shelby Yocum, yes; Joann Bailey, yes; Deb Dukes, yes; Stacey Morris, yes; and Linda Fitzgerald, yes. The motion passed.

### **Approve Awning Quote**

Lexie Walsh introduced the awning quote, explaining that it was the same one from several months earlier that the Board asked her to hold onto. Deb Dukes questioned whether or not it was guaranteed for any length of time. Joan Ruppman suggested asking the company about the expected longevity. After some discussion the board decided to abstain from approval until some questions could be answered. Joann Bailey made a motion to table the approval of the awning quote. Stacey Morris seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

### **Discuss Patron Incidents**

Stacy Smith made a motion to enter closed session to discuss patron incidents. Joan Ruppman seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed. The meeting entered closed session at 7:44 p.m.

Closed Session (5 ILCS 120/2)(c)(8)  
Discuss Patron Incidents

The meeting returned to open session at 7:55 p.m.

### **Discuss Reconsideration for Keeping the Sunnyland Branch Library Open**

Deb Dukes opened the discussion by reading a statement on why she believes that the Sunnyland branch should remain open for the foreseeable future, including the possibility of a recession and the library's current financial status. Linda Fitzgerald continued the discussion by sharing about a meeting she had with former director Pam Tomka and the points that Pam raised, specifically the breaks on rent offered by the building's landlord and the possibility of spending down the library's financial reserves. This suggestion sparked a debate about the feasibility of spending reserves to fund the branch and at what point reserve spending would need to cease. There was much discussion and debate about potential options and what steps to take next. As no agreement on next steps could be reached, it was decided that board members would take the time before the next meeting to review financial data and suggestions so that the discussion could resume at the next meeting.

Due to the uncertain nature of the Branch's future, Joan Ruppman made a motion to table the discussion of the Branch closure timeline and the approval of the Director's FY23 goals. Deb Dukes seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

**Discuss Branch Closure Timeline**

**Approve Director's FY23 Goals**

**Committee Reports**

There were no further committee reports.

**WACC Report**

Stacy Smith gave a summary of the last WACC meeting. She reported that the meeting centered mainly on repairs that would need to be made in the near future, specifically on the pool.

**Other Discussion**

There was no other discussion.

**Public Comment**

Lorena Cary, Diane Murphy, Kathleen Wunder, Sharon Watson, and Barb Childers all made further statements in support of the Sunnyland branch remaining open and offering suggestions of what they thought would help alleviate the strain operating two libraries causes, including the utilization of volunteers, soliciting donations, and applying for grants.

**Board Comment**

There was no Board comment.

**Adjourn**

Joann Bailey made a motion to adjourn. Deb Dukes seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Ali Dixon (Recording Secretary)

Shelby Yocum (Secretary)

*\*\*Additional documents available upon request*