WASHINGTON DISTRICT LIBRARY

WASHINGTON DISTRICT LIBRARY
SUNNYLAND BRANCH
16 Washington Plaza
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
08.18.26
7:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Stacy Smith.
Board members present: Lorena Cary, Deb Dukes, Ashley Mahony, Chris Nichols, Pam Tomka, Karen Williams, Stacy Smith

Also present: Lexie Walsh and Ali Schafer

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Several members of the public were present: Diane Murphy, Valerie Horton, Barb Appleby, & Kevin

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Murphy stated her concern about the library's long term budget deficit in the face of the option on tonight's agenda to switch the Branch lease to a 1-year contract from a 3-year contract. She fears this means that the Sunnyland Branch is being considered for closure, an action that she vehemently opposes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

6.16.26 Board Meeting Minutes

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CHECK REGISTER—July

- Stacy Smith asked about an invoice labeled MPLC. Lexie Walsh explained that it stood for Motion Picture License Company, and that it is an annual expense that allows the library to show movies to the public.

BUDGET WORKSHEET—June 17-30

BUDGET WORKSHEET–July

TREASURER'S REPORT—June

RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE EARLY ON DECEMBER 14

- Stacy clarified that the closure was for the staff holiday party and asked why that date was chosen. Lexie responded that, as it was a Monday, the library already closes early allowing for the shortest amount of disruption to service.

Karen Williams made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.
Deb Dukes seconded the motion.
Ayes: Deb Dukes, Ashley Mahony, Chris Nichols, Pam Tomka, Karen Willaims, Lorena Cary, Stacy Smith
Nays: None
The motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CIRCULATION STATISTICS—JUNE

DONATIONS—JULY

Lexie Walsh gave her director's report and reviewed the circulation statistics and donations.

- Lexie informed the board that she joined the WISE group. A few questions were asked about its purpose and who is leading it. Lexie answered that the current focus is a City-wide events calendar and that the group was initially formed by the Economic Development Council, which falls under the City.

- Lexie announced that two board members were needed to review the FY26 meeting minutes. Deb Dukes and Pam Tomka volunteered.

FY27 BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

Lexie reminded the board that this was the same document that had been reviewed last month.
Pam Tomka made a motion to approve the FY27 Budget & Appropriations Ordinance
Karen Williams seconded the motion.
Ayes: Ashley Mahony, Chris Nichols, Pam Tomka, Karen Willaims, Lorena Cary, Deb Dukes, Stacy Smith
Nays: None
The motion passed.

RENEWAL OF SUNNYLAND BRANCH LEASE

Lexie presented the two lease options given to the library by the management company. She explained that the terms of both leases are the same as previous years & each other (besides the contract length). The 1-year lease presented would be approximately $3,000/month and the 3-year lease $2,800/month. To clear up some misconceptions, Lexie also reminded the board that until the currently expiring lease the Sunnyland Branch had always been under a 1-year contract. A lengthy discussion was had comparing the pros and cons of both options. Chris Nichols expressed unease with signing either lease due to anomalies in the contract language, typos, the library being listed as a real estate office, and the wrong contact address amongst other things. He suggested that the library try some negotiating. Lexie responded that she could certainly try but that the management company had only given them two weeks before the current contract expires. More discussion ensued.

Karen Williams made a motion to renew the Sunnyland Lease with a 1-year contract.
Ashley Mahony seconded the motion.
Ayes: Karen Williams, Ashley Mahony, Stacy Smith
Nays: Lorena Cary, Deb Dukes, Chris Nichols, Pam Tomka
The motion failed.

More discussion was held and it was decided that Lexie would contact the attorney and management company to make suggested revisions to both contract options for approval at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no further committee reports.

WACC REPORT

Stacy Smith reported that the 5 Points Golf Outing was the coming Friday and that the silent auction was currently open online.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Stacy Smith notified the board that ILA's annual conference would be in Peoria this year from October 6-8, with Trustee Day as October 8. She encouraged members who have not previously, to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Valerie Horton commented that she was glad that the board made the decision not to pass the 1-year lease and hopes that the work to keep the Sunnyland Branch open. Kevin echoed this support. Diane Murphy reasserted her intention to not give up without a fight and her belief that funds should be cut for Main and reallocated to Branch.

BOARD COMMENT
Deb Dukes commented that the sign for the Sunnyland Branch has burnt out and can't be seen from a distance.

ADJOURN
Deb Dukes made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 PM
Lorena Cary seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Ali Schafer (Recording Secretary)

Karen Williams (Secretary)