

Providence Community Library  
Board of Directors Minutes  
June 18, 2018  
Rochambeau Library

Welcome and Call to Order

President Cyndie Wilmot called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Temporary secretary Patricia Raub took the roll call, noting that 13 trustees were present, constituting a quorum.

Present: Tony Aguilar, Kendra Brewster, Avital Chatto, Deborah DelGais, Judanne Hamidzada, Patience Landford, Rochelle Lee, Patricia Raub, Deborah Schimberg, Ellen Schwartz, Pam Vogel, Cyndie Wilmot, Ken Wise. Matthew Lawrence arrived after the roll, making 14 members present from that point on.

Kendra Brewster and Patience Landford left at 7:00 pm, Avital Chatto left at 7:30 pm, Rochelle Lee left at 7:34 pm. Nevertheless, there was a quorum at all times during the meeting.

Absent: Joan Dagle, Elena Chiaradio, Margaret Gardner, Althea Graves.

Minutes: R. Lee moved that the board minutes from May 21 be accepted as recorded. Second: E. Schwartz.  
Vote to approve: unanimous.

President's Report

C. Wilmot reported on the nominations for board officers, FY18-19. President: P. Raub, Vice President: T. Aguilar and K. Brewster, Secretary: K. Wise, Treasurer: E. Schwartz and P. Vogel. The Governance Committee will be meeting on June 27 to determine the next steps in this process.

C. Wilmot reported that the Executive Committee recommends that Cheryl Space be appointed Library Director to start June 24 at a salary of \$115,000, the same amount currently earned by outgoing Library Director Jeffrey Cannell.

P. Raub added that the Executive Committee specified that there should be a six-month review. D. DelGais noted that including a six-month review in the appointment letter helped to ensure that the selection process conformed to established practices.

T. Aguilar moved and A. Chatto seconded a motion that the board approve Cheryl Space as the new PCL Library Director at a salary of \$115,000, effective June 24, 2018. Vote: unanimous.

C. Wilmot announced that she was tabling the discussion to recommend a change in vacation accruals for non-union staff from entire year to per pay period basis.

After a brief discussion, A. Chatto observed that the board needs to know what the policy actually is and what financial impact it has had to date. S. Gibbs was directed to research these questions.

Director's Report

J. Cannell read Robert Frost's "Mending Wall." He observed that it is appropriate from time to time that we question whether we are walling ourselves in from each other.

J. Cannell reported that he, C. Space, C. Wilmot and D. Schimberg met on June 18 with some of the leadership at Providence Public Library to consider ways our two organizations can mutually raise money.

There was some discussion about the decision to lift fines on children's books and materials. J. Cannell observed that libraries around the country are finding that it is counter-productive to charge fines for overdue children's and young adult items. While PCL will lose some revenue, money from fines has been decreasing anyway, due to the increase in borrowing via e-books and other electronic resources.

D. Schimberg voiced concern about the number of days Knight Memorial Library closures due to heat. P. Vogel summarized the basic issue D. Schimberg was raising: what are the state guidelines on the maximum temperature permitted in a workplace before it is required to close? How do these guidelines compare with those set forth in the union contract? Is it possible to set our maximum temperature/heat index higher?

Both D. Schimberg and R. Lee urged that PCL install air conditioning at Knight Memorial Library as soon as possible. S. Gibbs assured the board that, with the electrical system update as the first stage in the renovation process scheduled for next winter, we can at least install portable air conditioning units next summer as we continue with the overall renovations that will eventually include central air conditioning.

#### Finance Committee Report

E. Schwartz presented the Income Statement ending May 31, 2018.

Motion to accept the 5/31/2018 Income Statement: D. DelGais. Second: P. Vogel.

Vote: unanimous

E. Schwartz presented the preliminary Operating Budget FY18-FY19.

After some discussion, P. Raub moved to accept the preliminary Operating Budget FY18-19. Second:

P. Vogel. Vote: unanimous

#### Governance Committee Report

P. Raub read the proposed section to be added to the By-Laws, V. Committees:

3. Selection and tenure of committee chairs: Only board members may serve as chairs of committees. Committee chairs shall be selected for two-year terms by committee vote and may be re-elected if the committee so decides. Committee chairs shall be expected to serve no more than two (2) consecutive two-year terms. P. Raub noted that in the May board meeting, the board recommended adding "Except as stated otherwise in the By-laws" to the last sentence of the proposed change.

Motion to accept the By-laws change, with the recommended addition: A. Chatto. Second: D. Schimberg. Vote: unanimous

#### Advocacy Committee Report

T. Aguilar announced that he has submitted a proposal to Providence Preservation Society to prepare a video highlighting Knight Memorial Library, one of the Endangered Properties on this year's list. If his proposal is accepted, he will receive a small stipend that will pay for some of his expenses in preparing

this video. The board saw no conflict of interest that would prevent him from accepting this stipend, should his project be approved.

#### Development Report

S. Kumins reported that this has been our best year so far, as we have raised approximately \$450,000. To date, we have raised \$44,000 in the Over the Edge campaign; unfortunately, most of this money will go toward paying for the expenses incurred in holding this event. Therefore, we expect to net around \$7,000 to \$10,000.

#### Facilities

S. Gibbs announced that Councilwoman JoAnn Ryan is holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6:30 pm on July 2 for the new Teen Room at Mount Pleasant Library.

#### Public Comment

Donna Woodworth, Knight Memorial Library clerk, pointed out that, with regard to heat closings at Knight Memorial, the staff gets together as a group to decide whether to close the library or not. Once the temperature reaches 87 degrees, though, there is no longer any choice: the library automatically closes.

C. Wilmot reminded the board that there is a Farmers Market beside Olneyville Library every Tuesday this summer from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

P.Vogel suggested that we have poetry at every board meeting from now on, and P.Raub suggested that P.Vogel bring a poem for the July meeting.

#### Adjournment

T. Aguilar moved to adjourn. Second: M. Lawrence. Vote: unanimous  
The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.