

BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

CALL TO ORDER-ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM

President Ed Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Board members Lori Ashmore-Ruppel, Kathy Ryan, Chris Herrington, Ed Wright (President), Garry Truman (Vice President), and Cindy Bechtel (Secretary). Absent were Board members Lynne DeVaughan (Treasurer), Libby Wilson, and Jeanette Oesterly. Also present was Director Gina Gibbons. Alderwoman Kathy O'Neill was absent. A quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

After review of the agenda, a motion to accept it as presented was made by C. Herrington and seconded by G. Truman. On the motion, all voted aye and the agenda was accepted.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2020 MEETING

After review of the January minutes, a motion was made by G. Truman and seconded by C. Herrington to accept the minutes as written. On the issue, all aye. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS BY VISITORS

No visitors were present.

ALDERMANIC REPORT

K. O'Neill was unable to attend the meeting.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT (See attached document)

Director Gibbons plans to attend the state library's New Director Boot Camp and has applied for a grant for that purpose. She reported that Creativebug is now available on the Library's website. The Library has added a 30-year digital collection of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. There were 2 winners (adult and youth) in the successful Winter Reading Club. Both prizes were sponsored by West Community Credit Union, which has partnered with the Library to help with programming costs this year. The Library's adult and youth programming continues to flourish. Trenice is now coordinating the Homebound Delivery program. G. Gibbons stated that a recent Gallup poll showed library visits outnumbered attending movies, sporting events, music/theater events, museum, casinos, theme parks or zoos!

OLD BUSINESS

1. Library fines discussion: In the January 2020 meeting the issue of libraries discontinuing overdue fines was introduced and tabled until this current meeting. G. Gibbons presented some comparison data from Consortium libraries (including Brentwood) and also the 2019 amount of fines collected at Brentwood. (See attached documents). The BPL fees collected in 2019 were \$2073.32. BPL does have a Friday fine amnesty which decreases the total fine collection. The Library doesn't rely on fines for funding. Among the other libraries in the Consortium there was no negative feedback about fees. President Wright proposed postponing further consideration of this topic until the March meeting when

all board members will be present to discuss and vote on the matter. He also suggested that the Library consider 2020 as a fine-free year to assess the effect of the change. A motion to table the discussion regarding fines until the March meeting was made by C. Herrington and seconded by G. Truman. On the issue, all voted aye. Discussion will be tabled until March.

2. Public Presenter Policy: This document is still being reviewed by our attorney and pending further revision. Motion to table discussion of the policy until the March Board meeting was made by C. Herrington and seconded by C. Bechtel. On the issue-all aye. Motion carried and policy discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

3. Financial Committee: G. Gibbons met with another accounting group, which also has an investment branch. She will prepare a comparison analysis of the potential groups for the upcoming March meeting. She and L. DeVaughan are preparing a financial policy for our attorney's review and will present this at our next meeting as well. The Library has its State and Federal tax IDs now and the plan is to delay opening an account until the financial policy is in place. The City's new form is not entirely appropriate for our needs at this time, therefore our Treasurer will continue to modify it.

4. Safety Committee: Director Gibbons reported that Alderwoman K. O'Neill spoke with City Manager Akande about the lobby staircase and security measures there. Originally the Library planned to install the equipment etc. but we are currently advocating for the City take responsibility for that area. We have not received a reply on this issue as yet. Ms. Akande stated in a letter that the matter is on hold.

5. Employee Exit Interview: The form is complete, but due to time constraints, the Board prefers to table the discussion until March. Motion to move the issue to March was made by C. Bechtel and seconded by C. Herrington. On the issue, all aye. Motion carried to discuss the document next month.

TREASURER'S REPORT (See attached documents)

L. DeVaughan was unable to attend the meeting so submitted a written report. She is working with the new financial report format that has some benefits but still needs revisions. The current financial sheet does not include any January transactions. She will continue to work on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS (See attached documents)

The issue is HB 2044, a bill introduced by State Representative Ben Baker from SW Missouri. The changes proposed are directed toward "parental oversight of public libraries, with penalty provisions." If passed as written, the bill would give appointed citizen committees ("parental review boards") the authority to monitor and to remove any library materials for "age-inappropriate sexual material." Non-compliance by a library would result in fines, possible jail sentences, and loss of state funding.

The Missouri Library Association (MLA) opposes this bill. Missouri Library Advocacy Day will be on March 11, 2020, and hopefully our Director and some of the Trustees will be able to attend. This is an opportunity to meet with our legislators to discuss concerns and strategy regarding HB 2044. Director Gibbons distributed a list of "talking points" on the issue. Discussion will continue at our next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS No visitors were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Wright stated that there are legal and personnel matters to discuss and asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by C. Bechtel and seconded by G. Truman to open Executive Session. Roll call vote: G. Truman-aye, L. Ashmore-Ruppel-aye, C Herrington-aye, K. Ryan-aye, E. Wright-aye, C. Bechtel-aye. The motion passed. Executive Session was opened at 7:22 PM. A motion

to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 2020 was made by G. Truman and seconded by C. Herrington. Roll call vote-all members aye. Minutes were approved as written. Following discussion of legal and personnel matters, a motion was made to close Executive Session by C. Herrington and seconded by G. Truman. Roll call vote: all aye. Motion passed and Session was closed at 7:28 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:30 PM. With business being completed, a motion to adjourn was made by L. Ashmore-Ruppel and seconded by K. Ryan. On the issue, all aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bechtel, Secretary