

**MINUTES  
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
Large Meeting Room  
7:00 PM**

President Marsha Baker called the March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members in attendance in the Large Meeting Room included: Ingrid Becton, Jane Chornij, Taylor Holop, Carol Jacobsen, and Sue Sadowski.

Trustees Cindy Wellwood Burke, Bill Ryan, and Bill Shanklin were absent.

Also in attendance were Library Director Mary Beth Harper and Assistant Director Marcy Rodriguez.

Visitors in attendance were Jon Baker, Chris Lameka, Tom Chavez, Katie Vreeland, and Steve Sullivan.

Board President Baker read the Public Participation Policy at Board Meetings Policy.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Tom Chavez, 523 Mitchell Elmhurst, stated that he did not have a prepared comment. He wanted to give the backstory about an incident that happened at the Library a couple of weeks ago. A friend requested a room at the Library to educate people about a House bill that they oppose and talk about a petition. Library personnel came twice to tell their group to leave or not to sign a petition. The second time they asked them to leave or they were going to call the police. He stated that before their group went to the Library they had previously organized at a local pub without incident. The second time the same people who called the Library to make sure that their group could not organize here called the restaurant and bullied the pub into telling the group they could not sign a petition there, which is how they ended up here. He thinks that this is a community where everyone is welcome to have their opinion, about whatever the issues are. He thinks this behavior is unbecoming. He said that they were not doing anything wrong. They weren't being violent. They were talking about some issues that they believe in. He read three points from the Library Association and stated that, "you failed at that." He stated that Director Harper said that there was no politicking in the Library and that should be applied to everyone in the Library not just his group. He stated that he knows for a fact because he attended the York Township Republican Committee event to learn about software and signing up. He said he also knows that when he was running for school board, Kelly Henry had a petition or postcard signing in the Library and no one objected to it. If there is no politicking in the Library then that should be applied equally to everyone that comes to the Library. Everyone is welcome to have their opinions, whether about the school, curriculum, or books on the shelf. He stated that denying access because you don't agree with their viewpoints is wrong and needs to be addressed.

Director Harper read the following correspondence.

Hello,

I wanted to make you aware of the noise problem at the Library.

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Last Tuesday the person at the front desk answering phones was very loud I would say to the point it was unnecessary.

This Tuesday to avoid that loudness I reserved Study room 3 to have a quiet spot to read.

Unfortunately there was a person having a loud phone conversation for half an hour that I could unfortunately hear completely clear with my middle aged ears. Finding this unacceptable I went to the front desk at the adult services and spoke to Anne who came in and told me his phone voice volume was completely reasonable. I find the general area of the adult section of the library too noisy and took the time to reserve what I assumed to be a quiet room to do some reading. This was ruined by the rude person on the phone in Study room 4 and the uselessness of Library staff to remedy the situation. I look for a quiet place once a week outside my house for about 90 minutes or less it is disappointing that the Elmhurst Public Library is unable or unwilling to provide that experience, especially considering the tax environment of our community.

Any improvements to reduce the noise level in our library/ study rooms would we appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim Colbert

234 N Willow Road

Elmhurst, Illinois

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting be approved as presented.

Trustee Chornij seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of business was the approval of the March 19, 2024 Accounts Payable. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the March 19, 2024 Accounts Payable be approved as presented.

Director Harper responded to questions about the invoices. Trustee Becton seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Director Harper discussed the financial reports. Ms. Harper answered several questions from the Board.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Harper talked about all the activity on Friday, February 23 where 750 patrons celebrated all things Taylor Swift at the Eras Celebration. Most patrons were of the demographic that loves Swift and her music. This included many young people and their parents enjoying the evening. The program was the brainchild of Programming Coordinator, Jez Layman. Crafts

and games were held throughout the building and patrons moved from one station to the next. There was even a costume contest! Much coordination and staff involvement goes into planning such a big event. Kudos to Jez and the rest of the staff who helped to make this event so successful.

Director Harper noted that the Trustees will notice a large TV in the Lobby showcasing videos produced by the Marketing Department.

There was no President's Report.

There was no Unfinished Business.

The first order of New Business was the 2023 financial review. The City closed out 2023 with period 13 and the end of the year financials are complete. Director Harper reviewed the 2023 financial review. She highlighted lines that had a variance greater than five percent.

The next item of New Business was the review of Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Director Harper stated that closed session meetings are reviewed twice a year. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Executive Session Minutes dated September 20, 2016 remain closed.

Director Harper stated she would bring the closed session minutes back to the Trustees in six months. Trustee Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of New Business was the approval to purchase a color printer. Director Harper stated that IT staff would like to upgrade the current 8-year-old HP M750 public printer for Adult Services. The new printer will improve accuracy and reduce misprint issues increasing uptime. Trustee Jacobsen moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Administrative Staff is authorized to purchase a HP Color Printer for a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

Trustee Becton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next order of New Business was the review of the Solicitation and Selling Policy, Meeting Room Policy, Reference policy, Health and Safety Policy, and Public Conduct Policy. Director Harper reviewed each policy.

Director Harper proposed changes to the Solicitation and Selling Policy and Meeting Room Policy to provide more clarification to existing policy. After some discussion among the Trustees, Trustee Becton moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Solicitation and Selling Policy be approved as presented.

Trustee Holop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Meeting Room Policy be approved as presented.  
Trustee Chornij seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Trustee Jacobsen moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Reference Policy be discontinued.

Trustee Becton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Health and Safety Policy be discontinued and the Public Conduct Policy be approved as presented.

Trustee Jacobsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There being no Other Business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.