

**MINUTES
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, July 19, 2022
Large Meeting Room
or Virtual at ELMLIB.ORG/VIRTUAL, 7:00 PM**

This meeting was held both virtually via Zoom and in-person in the Large Meeting Room.

President Susan Sadowski called the July 19, 2022 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, Bill Ryan, and William Shanklin.

Trustee Marsha Baker attended virtually.

Trustee Teresa Menolascino was absent.

Also in attendance were Library Director Mary Beth Harper, Assistant Director Marcy Rodriguez, and Admin/HR Manager Rita Andreuccetti.

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

Visitors in attendance were: Justin Czarnowski, Reverend Joseph Johnson, and Judith Volkmann.

Public comment:

Reverend Joseph Johnson stated that he came to express appreciation to the Library Board for the Pride display. He believes that as an open and secular society it's important to have a variety of material available for all. He commended the Board.

Judith Volkmann said that she seconded what Reverend Johnson stated.

Justin Czarnowski stated that he is a lifelong resident of Elmhurst. He thanked the Board for giving him an opportunity to speak. He wanted to address some of the correspondence he read online. He pointed out that he did not check out books from the pride displays nor did he encourage others to do so. He thinks maybe it was in poor taste, but he thinks it may be a cry for help for people who are feeling marginalized. Not everyone in the community feels that it's appropriate or healthy to push books about sexuality to children. One resident wrote, "The children's library is a safe space for all kids." He said that sadly the library is no longer a safe place for his kids. He doesn't feel that his children should be confronted with sexual topics. He knows many families personally that avoid coming to the library in June. If the Library continues with such displays as

it did this past June, it does so knowingly alienating many families, going against the very fabric of what it means to be inclusive. Another resident wrote, "For one group to impose its values on all of us is abhorrent." Justin stated that he agrees, imposing sexual topics onto children is abhorrent. He does not believe in book banning. He believes the library is a place for the free exchange of ideas and materials with all points of view. There is a difference between having books on the shelf in their appropriate section and confronting children with large unavoidable displays about sexual topics throughout the library. Most recently the pride display upon entering the library, the pride display upon entering the children's library, and the pride craft filling the windows in the kids' library. His children cannot and did not give consent to be exposed to topics on adult sexuality. This is abuse and an attack on his children's innocence. One resident stated "Everyone is free to decide what they or members of their family read, watch, or listen to. They are not free to decide what others watch, read, or listen to." Justin asked then why are decisions being taken away from parents? Another resident expressed that those who spoke at a recent meeting are a small vocal minority. Justin asked if his views are in the minority then shouldn't the library be supporting him and be sensitive to his family's needs. If he is in the minority it seems that his minority is being marginalized. One resident said the way things seem to be headed we will each need to carry a gun. Another said, no tolerance for non-tolerance. Justin stated that people should come together to support a safe place for all children. A little respect goes a long way. Justin said not to present a false dichotomy, the library can have material for all without forcing sensitive topics onto children. The library does not need to ban books, but it should not have blaring signs that present a particular ideology. The library should serve all its patrons.

Ms. Sadowski thanked everyone for participating.

Director Harper stated that the correspondence is included in the Board packet.

The first order of business was the approval of the Minutes of the June 21, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. Carol Jacobsen moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the June 21, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting be approved as presented.

Ingrid Becton seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Baker, Becton, Chornij, Holop, Jacobsen, Ryan, Shanklin, and Sadowski

Nays: None

Absent: Menolascino

The motion carried.

The next item of business was the approval of Special Meeting Minutes. Carol Jacobsen moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Special Meeting Minutes dated June 22, 2022 be approved as presented.

Taylor Holop seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Baker, Becton, Chornij, Holop, Jacobsen, Ryan, Shanklin, and Sadowski

Nays: None

Absent: Menolascino

The motion carried.

The next order of business was the approval of the July 19, 2022 Accounts Payable. Carol Jacobsen moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the July 19, 2022 Accounts Payable be approved as presented.

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

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Baker, Becton, Chornij, Holop, Jacobsen, Ryan, Shanklin, and Sadowski

Nays: None

Absent: Menolascino

The motion carried.

Director Harper discussed the financial reports. A property tax payment of \$2,702,083 was received.

Ms. Harper reviewed the expenditure report. She stated that under Contractual Services, the audit was paid this month.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Harper stated that the Makery celebrates its 5-year anniversary this month. Patrons are enjoying a series of drop-in crafts available on a first come, first serve basis. This unique community creative space has blossomed into one of the best places to be in the Library.

Summer Reading is in full swing with many creative programs. A few highlights include the Crafting for Canines program that included making doggie toys to donate to a shelter. The kids crafted alongside some four-legged friends who helped to keep everyone focused. The Tasty Reading by the Slice program gave families the opportunity to pick up a pizza box full of books curated to certain ages.

She also mentioned that the Library has a new service called Library Factcheck that is available to patrons. Patrons may fill out a form with questions and our expert staff will research answers and get back to them within five days. As misinformation and disinformation continue to wreak havoc on our society, the Library is the trusted place in the community to go for credible resources.

In the President's Report, Ms. Sadowski reminded the Board that there is a Strategic Planning meeting starting at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The first order of Unfinished Business was the Draft of the 2023 Budget. Mrs. Harper resumed the budget discussion from the June Board meeting. Highlights from the revenue report include: a 0% increase in property tax collection, an increase of \$110,000 in replacement tax revenue, and a decrease of \$10,000 in copier revenue.

Under the expenditure report, highlights include: a 4% merit raise increase for staff, \$25,000 allocated for Wifi Access Points, \$17,000 for new computer monitors, \$20,000 for exterior limestone cleaning, \$15,000 for outdoor painting, \$45,000 to replace fixtures, \$10,000 for concrete repairs.

The first order of New Business was the 2021 Tax Rates. Director Harper reviewed the 2021 tax rates. The Library's tax rate is .2331.

There being no Other Business, at 8:49 p.m. Sue Sadowski took a roll call vote to convene into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) for the review of the Director.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Baker, Becton, Chornij, Holop, Jacobsen, Ryan, Shanklin, and Sadowski

Nays: None

Absent: Menolascino

The Board moved into executive session at 8:23 p.m.

The Board moved back into regular session at 8:35 p.m.

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In regular session, The Board voted unanimously to approve an increase to Director Harper's salary by 4%. Director Harper was called into the meeting and the Board discussed the performance review with her.

There being no Other Business, the meeting was adjourned 8:47 p.m.