

**MINUTES
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
Kossmann Room
or Virtual at [ELMLIB.ORG/VIRTUAL](https://elmlib.org/virtual), 7:00 PM**

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

President Marsha Baker called the September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:03 p.m.

Board members in attendance in the Kossmann Room included: Jane Chornij, Taylor Holop, Teresa Menolascino, Bill Ryan, and Sue Sadowski.

Trustees Marsha Baker, Ingrid Becton, and Bill Shanklin attended virtually.

Trustee Carol Jacobsen was absent.

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

Secretary Jane Chornij administrated the oath of office to Trustees Marsha Baker and Bill Shanklin.

Visitors in attendance were staff members Shaira Rock and Heather Forster-Jensen.

Director Harper read a letter from patron Rebecca Harpster:

Hello Library Board,

I'm writing to express concern with EPL storytime. Part of your mission and values statement is to instill a love of reading and to connect with others. The children's librarians are still masked while they are reading to the children. Children need to see mouths to learn to read. Children need to learn to read to develop a love of reading. Children need to see faces to develop connections with others. No one is even showing up for storytime because they can't hear the librarian through the mask.

You went to storytime with an unmasked librarian. Your kids went to storytime with an unmasked librarian. Let this generation have storytime with an unmasked librarian! While I understand that everyone should be able to choose whether they want to wear a mask or not, there are certain jobs that are essential to learning to read and this is one of those jobs. The EPL should put a librarian who is comfortable unmasking around children in this role of storytime reader.

Minutes
Elmhurst Public Library Board of Trustees
September 20, 2022
page 2

Thank you for listening to my concerns,
Becca Harpster

Director Harper stated that she informed the patron that this email would be read at the Board Meeting. She noted that she had met with Kids' staff to discuss mask wearing and the idea of offering unmasked story times.

The first order of business was the approval of the Minutes of the August 16, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. Sue Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the August 16, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting be approved as presented.

Bill Ryan seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Jacobsen

The motion carried.

The next order of business was the approval of the September 20, 2022 Accounts Payable. Sue Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the September 20, 2022 Accounts Payable be approved as presented.

Director Harper responded to questions about the invoices. Bill Ryan seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Jacobsen

The motion carried.

Director Harper discussed the financial reports. She noted that a property tax payment of \$481,177 and a replacement tax payment of \$14,192 were received.

Ms. Harper reviewed the expenditure report. The salary line and IMRF Contribution under Employee Benefits continue to be underspent. Ms. Harper answered several questions from the Board.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Harper stated that the new Head of the Kids' Library, Mary Smith, started on August 29. She is a seasoned manager from Mount Prospect Library who has jumped right in. Hiring someone from another library brings new ideas. One suggestion that Director Harper implemented is a monthly staff virtual information meeting on the morning after the Board Meeting and follow that with a brief question and answer session. The meetings are not mandatory. All-staff meetings have been held in the past and will continue to do so when needed, but they require Administration to hold multiple meetings at different times to make sure that everyone can attend.

Director Harper noted that she sent a censorship piece from National Public Radio to the Board. She noted that this is a serious issue impacting libraries. Board President Marsha Baker thanked Director Harper for sending this out to the Trustees. She found it informative. Ms. Harper talked about the Library's role in educating the community on censorship. She stated that Library leaders have created a self-learning module on censorship that will be available online. It will be presented to staff first and then it will be rolled out to the community.

There was no President's Report.

The first order of Unfinished Business was an update on the Strategic Plan. Department Heads have revised some of the wording on the mission, vision, and values statement. Consultants are meeting with staff in the next couple of weeks to discuss the strategic goals.

The first order of New Business was the acceptance of the 2021 Annual Audit. Bill Shanklin moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Elmhurst Public Library Board of Trustees accepts the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Elmhurst Public Library, December 31, 2021.

Director Harper reviewed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report dated December 31, 2021.

Teresa Menolascino seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Minutes
Elmhurst Public Library Board of Trustees
September 20, 2022
page 4

Nays: None
Absent: Jacobsen

The motion carried.

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

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

That the Executive Session Minutes dated May 17, 2022 be opened.

That the Executive Session Minutes dated July 19, 2022 be opened.

Director Harper stated she would bring the closed session minutes back to the Trustees in six months. Teresa Menolascino seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Ayes: Baker, Becton, Chornij, Holop, Menolascino, Ryan, Shanklin, and Sadowski
Nays: None
Absent: Jacobsen

The motion carried.

The first item of Other Business is the retirement announcement from Admin/HR Manager Rita Andreuccetti.

There being no Other Business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.