

**MINUTES
ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Large Meeting Room
7:00 PM**

This meeting was held in the Large Meeting Room.

President Marsha Baker called the June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members in attendance included: Marsha Baker, Jane Chornij, Teresa Menolascino, Susan Sadowski, Bill Shanklin, and Taylor Holop.

Trustees Ingrid Becton, Carol Jacobsen, and Bill Ryan were absent.

Also in attendance was Library Director Mary Beth Harper.

Visitors in attendance were: Sam Cresswell, Head of Circulation, Bryan Blank, Head of Adult Services, Bryan Bednarek, Head of the Makers, Brianna Bone, Head of Marketing and Communications, Neil Bonk, Head of IT and Tech Services, Jon Baker, Karen LaFleur, Mary Fenske, and Allan Fenske.

Under Public Comment, Ms. Fenske commented that she is proud of this excellent Library and would like to continue to see the Library run by the people who are running it. Ms. LaFleur stated that she has been a resident of Elmhurst for over 40 years and came to the meeting because she is concerned by some of the comments she heard and feels the need to be more connected to learning more about what is going on.

President Baker thanked the attendees for their comments and welcomed them to stay for the rest of the meeting.

Under Correspondence, Director Harper stated that the Board received several emails. Please see attachment at the end of this document for correspondence.

The first order of business was the approval of the Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting be approved as presented.

Trustee Shanklin seconded the motion.

Yes: Shanklin, Sadowski, Menolascino, Holop, Chornij, Baker

No: None

Absent: Ryan, Jacobsen, Becton

The next order of business was the approval of the June 20, 2023 Accounts Payable. Trustee Shanklin moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the June 20, 2023 Accounts Payable be approved as presented.

Trustee Sadowski seconded the motion. Director Harper answered several questions about the invoices. Trustee Sadowski commented on the tuition reimbursement payment and also asked about the invoice from Service Plus. Director Harper explained the Service Plus invoice and also confirmed that the first payment for the circulation system lease was included in this check run.

Yes: Shanklin, Sadowski, Menolascino, Holop, Chornij, Baker

No: None

Absent: Ryan, Jacobsen, Becton

Director Harper discussed the financial reports.

In the revenue report, a property tax payment of \$625,190 was received. She stated that the first large property tax payment is expected next month. She noted that a Replacement Tax payment of \$154,443 was received. Further, she reported to the Board that the Library received confirmation from the State of Illinois that the Per Capita Grant was awarded and the Library will receive a check in the amount of \$67,534.35.

Ms. Harper reviewed the expenditure report and mentioned that next month is a three-paycheck month, therefore the salary line will be more closely aligned with the percentage of year-to-date spending. She noted that in the Professional Services line, the \$25,000 payment to the City for services rendered is included in this month's report. Also included in the Professional Services line is the final payment to Measurement Resources for strategic plan consulting.

In the Director's Report, Ms. Harper stated that Summer Reading is in full swing and the Library is busy! She noted that some Summer Reading events from the past have been brought back this year on a scaled down level.

The EPL Cares Committee hosted a food drive in the lobby. Patrons brought in over 400 lbs. of food to help replenish the pantry

There was no President's Report.

Minutes

Elmhurst Public Library Board of Trustees

June 20, 2023

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The first item of New Business was the Fund Balance Report. Director Harper reviewed the spreadsheet with the fund balances. The operating fund needs at least \$2,500,000 to bridge the gap between January and May, when the Library receives its first property tax payment. Director Harper explained that Library fund balances remain within the planned range for best practices.

The next order of New Business was the Draft of the 2024 Budget. Ms. Harper reviewed each line of the budget for 2024. Highlights from the revenue report include: a 1% increase in property tax collection. Director Harper reminded the Board that the 2022 budget included an 17% decrease in the property tax levy and last year remained flat. The Board asked Director Harper to speak with Brewpoint about resuming their rental payment of \$100 per month now that business has increased in the Library.

Director Harper stated that the biggest portion of the expenditure budget is devoted to personnel. She noted that the Full-time and Part-time lines include a 4% merit raise increase for staff.

Other highlights from the expenditure report include: \$30,000 for a salary study, \$15,000 to work with professionals to plan improvements to the garden outside of the Kids' Library, \$18,000 for two new servers, \$38,000 for a battery backup, \$25,000 for new sump pumps, and \$20,000 for new carpet in the Kids' office area. Also included is a budget increase to the Training line to support the strategic plan initiative to provide more training for staff.

She asked the Board to prepare for further discussion at the July meeting.

The next order of New Business was the approval to close the Library for Staff Institute Day. Sue Sadowski moved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Library will be closed to the public for a Staff Institute Day on Friday, August 4, 2023.

Teresa Menolascino seconded the motion.

Yes: Shanklin, Sadowski, Menolascino, Holop, Chornij, Baker

No: None

Absent: Ryan, Jacobsen, Becton

The next order of New Business was the Director Review Materials. President Baker asked Trustees to return the completed review forms to her before the July meeting.

In Other Business, Director Harper thanked Trustee Menolascino for her service on the Board. Trustee Menolascino's three-year Board term has expired and she will not seek reappointment. Trustee Menolascino served for a total of 9 years on the Board. The other Trustees expressed their thanks to Trustee Menolascino and wished her well.

There being no Other Business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Thank you for the Pride display and LGBTQ books year round!

Elizabeth Collins [REDACTED]

Mon 6/5/2023 5:02 PM

To:EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello Elmhurst Public Liberty Trustees,

Thank you so much for supporting the Pride display, and for inclusive LGBTQ books year round.

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Sincerely,
Elizabeth Collins

Library pride

jessica pliskie [REDACTED]

Sat 6/17/2023 1:27 PM

To:EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello,

I am writing today in appreciation of the libraries support of Pride month! It is always a pleasure to walk into the library in June and see Pride month highlighted in so many ways. As a regular patron I encourage you to keep up the good work as well as further highlight LGBTQIA+ authors. I would additionally, like more books to be available for checkout during this time. As I know you are aware, a group of people have been checking out books in an effort to keep them out of the hands of others. Something has to be done to make sure the desired books are available to all patrons.

Thank you,

Jessica Pliskie

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Comments in advance of next board meeting

Elizabeth Collins [REDACTED]

Sat 6/17/2023 11:44 AM

To: Mary Beth Harper <MaryBeth.Harper@elmlib.org>; EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello EPL Board and Leadership,

I will not be able to attend the next board meeting, but here are my comments which you may make public.

I am an Elmhurst resident and a friend of the library. I was born and raised here, and returned in 2008 with my husband. We are now raising our son in this city which offers many valued public institutions, including especially the EPL.

I can't adequately express my gratitude for librarians who host Pride displays and put out LGBTQ+ books, even amidst all of the vitriol. Those displays will make queer people, and especially queer kids, feel less alone. They will feel more like they belong and that there's someone in their community who understands them and accepts them. Having just one supportive adult in their life makes LGBTQ+ youth 40% less likely to attempt suicide.

I am grateful that EPL is committed to meeting the information needs of all the diverse individuals and families in our community. The city should be proud that EPL is able to provide access to a wide variety of books that appeal to a breadth of interests and offer a collection that ensures that there is something of interest available to everyone of every background, belief, and identity. I note that in April EPL had a "Wisconsin Wonder: The Blessed Virgin Mary Appears in Champion" display in the main lobby, evidencing that the library is welcoming to all beliefs. And I am unaware of any community members publicly objecting to this display.

I hope that EPL continues to support each person's freedom to choose what they want to read without anyone – including well-funded astroturfing groups – censoring books or restricting the user's right to select the books they want to read.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Collins

Pride month

[REDACTED]

Sat 6/17/2023 6:21 PM

To:EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

I was pleased to come to the library today and see your active participation in Pride Month. I believe the library should be a safe place that sends a message of inclusion. It concerns me to hear that people are checking out books in order to keep them out of the hands of interested parties. I think we should purchase extra materials to make sure the targeted books are available to anyone who may want to check them out. This included backup copies that may not be on the shelf at all times. Maybe some could always be available for in library use, or they could be reassigned as "hot copies".

Thank you

Benjamin King
Columbia Ave Elmhurst

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Thank You - LGBTQ+ Support

Michele Pajak [REDACTED]

Sun 6/18/2023 10:45 AM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello Elmhurst Public Library Board,

Thank you for showing your support for our LGBTQ+ community year-round and specifically during Pride month. It is wonderful that children have access to a library with a collection of books that champion acceptance and belonging.

I am proud that my local public library continues to support each person's right to choose what they want to read. It is refreshing to raise my family in a community that stands up for the rights of others despite the occasional challenges from a close-minded minority.

Sincerely,

Michele Pajak, Elmhurst resident since 2016

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Support for knowledge

Deborah Sandstrom [REDACTED]

Sun 6/18/2023 3:42 PM

To: Mary Beth Harper <MaryBeth.Harper@elmlib.org>; elpboard@elmlib.org <elpboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

To the Elmhurst public library board,

I write to express my support for the library as a source of knowledge. When public libraries were started, the goal was to make information available to the public. Only by learning about things can our world be understood. In a library, a person should be able to find information on whatever they are interested in, on things that are confusing to them, on things that they need to know about. No other people in a community have the right to prevent others from reading about something. Those who seek to restricting the reading of others by hiding books, checking out books so that others can't read them, or other similar actions should understand that knowledge is not to be feared. Good ideas can prosper through spreading of knowledge. Bad ideas need to be known as well. How else to learn enough determine the difference?

Thank you ELP board for standing in support of the dissemination of knowledge.

Deborah Sandstrom
Elmhurst resident

is unethical behavior similar to stealing and lying. Those who do such things are

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Pride Month Support

Shenanigoat Gaming [REDACTED]

Sun 6/18/2023 4:54 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello, today I'm writing to voice my happiness about your pride displays throughout the library. It fills me with joy to see LGBTQ community supported in the library in many ways. In addition I believe it would be wise to buy more LGBTQ books that way there are more/they are more accessible for all.

Best of wishes

-Lola k

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Thank you for the Pride Display

Ioana Fernandez [REDACTED]

Mon 6/19/2023 8:32 AM

To: Mary Beth Harper <MaryBeth.Harper@elmlib.org>; EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the Pride display at the library this month. We love how inclusive our community is and we believe the library is a big part of that.

As an ally for our LGBTQ+ community, I understand how important it is for everyone to feel included and for all our communities to be visible.

I appreciate your efforts and the work you do to make our library an inclusive and safe space for everyone.

Thank you!

Ioana Fernandez

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