

ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Members present: Cynthia Dunlop, Janet Gruwell, Jennifer Nielsen, James W. Rieckhoff, Yuliana Rivera Arce, Jeri Stahr, and Laura Steffen.

Others present: Lisa Guedea Carreño, Executive Director; Jane A. Garoutte, Senior Business Manager/Treasurer; Kevin J. Kilmer, Director of Branch and Technical Services; and Mary Beth Schlabach, Director of Public Services.

Staff present: Laura Holland, Administrative Clerk; Allison McLean, YPS Department Head; Jarret Mitchell, Pierre Moran Branch Manager; Eric Nord, Computer Network Assistant; Charles Pieri, Branch YPS Librarian; and Trevor Wendzonka, Chief Marketing Officer.

Staff present via Zoom: Deb Bloom, Circulation Department Head; Nathan Claeys, Director of Human Resources; Sue Eller, Dunlap Branch Manager; and Jeanne Glanders, Popular Materials Department Head.

REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Elkhart Public Library was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by James W. Rieckhoff, President.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was presented. Laura Steffen moved

THAT the Consent Agenda be adopted.

Janet Gruwell seconded. Motion: carried (7-0)

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

James W. Rieckhoff, President, noted that the board meeting may pause briefly for pictures at some point. Attempts to schedule Elkhart County Commissioner Bob Barnes to speak with the library board have been unsuccessful. Perhaps Elkhart County Commissioner Suzanne Weirick would be able to attend instead.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lisa Guedea Carreño, Executive Director, updated the board on legislative issues. The previously discussed proposed bill did not get a hearing nor was it added to any other bill. Lisa cautioned that next

year is a long legislative session and expects that similar bills will be proposed.

Jarrett Mitchell, Pierre Moran Branch Manager, gave a presentation on the status of the Pierre Moran Branch. Big staff changes have occurred since his joining EPL in 2018, with nearly all of his staff hired after him. Five staff members are fluently bilingual. He shared statistics indicating that foot traffic is returning to more predictable seasonal patterns. Although still not back to previous levels from before the pandemic and the remodel closure, there have been some very successful events with higher than expected turn out. Yuliana Rivera Arce noted she appreciated the events geared toward the Spanish speaking population.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Nonresident Library Card Fee Increase & Revision of Fee Schedule

Lisa Guedea Carreño, Executive Director, presented the Nonresident Card Fee Resolution and Fee Schedule revision. State law requires that nonresident card fee be set at no less than the library's per capita spending in the previous year. Upon completion of the 2023 annual financial report, the per-capita spending came in at \$81.76, so the previous fee of \$75 needed to be updated. Two proposed amounts were offered to the board. Yuliana Rivera Arce moved

THAT the Nonresident Card Fee Resolution increasing the fee to \$85.00 and the Fee Schedule revision be adopted

Jennifer Nielsen seconded. Motion: carried (7-0)

Rescinding of COVID-19 Vaccination Side Effects Policy

Lisa Guedea Carreño, Executive Director, recommended rescinding the COVID-19 Vaccination Side Effects Policy. Jeri Stahr moved

THAT the COVID-19 Vaccination Side Effects Policy be rescinded

Laura Steffen seconded. Motion: carried (7-0)

Strategic Plan Draft

Lisa Guedea Carreño, Executive Director, distributed copies of the Strategic Plan Draft to members of the board. Cynthia Dunlop noted that it seemed "very ambitious," and Janet Gruwell said she had counted more than 50 goals. Lisa replied that there were a similar number of "tactics" in the previous strategic plan. The board discussed some specific aspects of the draft and asked how they would be updated on implementation. Lisa showed the Annual Progress Report form and said she would gather and summarize these for the Board at the end of each year of the plan. She said she also would add a section to the form requesting that specific metrics be set for the next year if applicable. With regard to the renovation/expansion of the children's and teens' areas, the Board asked if a representative from the firm doing the feasibility study could give a presentation to the board. There was also an invitation to all members of the strategic planning committee to attend the next board meeting. Lisa also briefly

discussed possible funding and timetables for expansion or improvements to the children's and teens' spaces.

James W. Rieckhoff, President said no action would be taken on the plan at this meeting and asked members to further review the Strategic Plan Draft before the next Board meeting.

Questions and Information from Board, Staff, and Guests

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Nielsen moved

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Yuliana Rivera Arce seconded. James W. Rieckhoff, President, adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Elkhart Public Library at 6:20 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be April 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Downtown Location, 300 S. Second Street, Elkhart, IN.

Laura Steffen, Secretary