

ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Members present: Cynthia Dunlop, Janet Gruwell, Dan Holtz, James W. Rieckhoff, Yuliana Rivera Arce, and Jeri Stahr. Laura Steffen did not attend.

Others present: Jamie Arce, Director of Finance/Treasurer; Kristen Edson, Executive Director; Kevin J. Kilmer, Director of Branch and Technical Services; and Mary Beth Schlabach, Director of Public Services.

Staff present: Deb Bloom, Circulation Department Head; Jordan Bronke, Circulation Assistant; Laura Holland, Administrative Clerk; and Mary Ann Kempa, Cleveland Branch Manager.

Staff present via Zoom: Nathan Claeys, Director of Human Resources; Katie Cullison, Osolo Branch Manager; John Dawson, Senior Building Operations Manager; Jeanne Glanders, Popular Materials Department Head; and Trevor Wendzonka, Chief Marketing Officer.

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. Cynthia Dunlop moved

THAT the Consent Agenda be adopted.

Jeri Stahr seconded. Motion: carried (6-0)

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

James W. Rieckhoff, President, mentioned that he had been to the most recent Music in the Stacks by Elkhart Symphony. He encouraged members to attend. The next performance is May 2nd at 1pm at the Downtown location. The program is supported by the Friends of EPL.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jordan Bronke, Circulation Assistant, gave a presentation on the Fun Committee, which is designed to "bring connection and community to staff" across all departments and branches. The five-member committee sponsor activities including spirit days, craft nights, book clubs, and a wellness group. Staff have positive testimonies for these events. Future plans include sponsorship from local businesses for library week and an EPL picnic on April 25th for staff and their families. The library board are included in the invite. There are additional ideas for future activities.

Kristen Edson, Executive Director, went over items from her board report. The Facilities Master Plan Selection Committee has chosen Bostwick Design Partnership to assist with the process. Leadership will meet with them to discuss the assessment of our current assets. Not all offered services will be needed.

Kristen also asked if the new format for listing her community meetings was helpful compared to a long list. The response was positive to the summary section. Director's Hours at various community locations has concluded for now.

Board members were also encouraged to take copies of the community impact report to share with others. Samples of the new Engage publication were distributed. This will be a bi-annual activity booklet for adults and will be published in house.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Mileage Policy

Jamie Arce, Director of Finance/Treasurer, presented updates to the Mileage Policy. This would change the reimbursement rate from an average of Federal and Indiana rates, to using the Federal rate only. Dan Holtz moved

THAT the amendments to the Mileage Policy be adopted as presented.

Jeri Stahr seconded. Motion: carried (6-0)

Board Development Training

Kristen Edson, Executive Director, asked for board members willing to review proposals for training focused on governance, fundraising, and supporting the library and to recommend which company to select. This was a recommendation from last year's fundraising feasibility study. The training would not occur until after the appointments in July. Cynthia Dunlop, Dan Holtz, and Jeri Stahr all expressed a willingness to participate in reviewing the proposals.

Questions and Information from Board, Staff, and Guests

Jeri Stahr noted that the board did not offer their traditional gift to a department last year. She suggested that members contribute to the support the Fun Committee and the upcoming picnic. This was discussed and agreed they would each contribute \$20 to the Fun Committee to be used to purchase a cake at the picnic and the remaining balance would be used for committee prizes or other activities.

Mary Beth Schlabach, Director of Public Services, reported a successful completion of the First Grade Field Trips. Exact stats aren't available, but an estimated 50+ families returned to an EPL location to get library cards.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Holtz moved

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Jeri Stahr seconded. James W. Rieckhoff, President, adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Elkhart Public Library at 6:26 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be April 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Downtown Location, 300 S. Second Street, Elkhart, IN.

Janet Gruwell, Interim Secretary