

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

March 14, 2022; 4:30 p.m.

Chairperson Melissa Bonorden called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, March 14, 2022, at the Austin Public Library. The meeting was conducted by videoconference via Zoom Meeting, as permitted by Minn. Stat. 13D.021 during the condition of a current health pandemic (COVID-19).

PRESENT: Melissa Bonorden, Kristi Beckman, Sue Grove, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Shannon Lysne, Alex Mayfield, Stephanie Postma

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Baldus (County Commissioner), Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff

ABENT WITH NOTICE: Jwokamer Debock

AGENDA:

Ted Hinchcliffe moved to approve the agenda as presented; Stephanie Postma seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Sue Grove, seconded by Ted Hinchcliffe, to approve the January 10, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:

Following board review of expenses, a motion was made by Ted Hinchcliffe to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for January and February of 2022. Stephanie Postma seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

SELCO REPORT:

Sue Grove reported the Advocacy Committee made a lot of telephone calls to Minnesota legislators on behalf of regional and local library funding and interests during the recent Legislative Week. She noted there were a number of good conversations with our representatives.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Jeff Baldus noted the County is focused on regular business – renewals and bids for spring projects and an upcoming hearing on redistricting, which involved relatively minor changes in boundaries.

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

Julie Clinefelter provided a written operational report to the board and presented additional information regarding several of the subjects covered.

Julie provided an update on her schedule and work status in regards to her current intermittent leave under FMLA. She is generally able to be in the office most days and is in close contact with staff to assure everything is covered. She advised she will not be attending the Public Library Association conference in Portland, Oregon, as originally planned and the registration fees are being refunded to the City by the PLA.

Clinefelter noted the Friends of the Library book sale had just finished their first event at its new venue - the Ruby Rupner Auditorium at the Nature Center, and they made record sales of over \$9,000. Overall, she received positive feedback from the Friends regarding the new site, and the preparation and sale went very well.

Julie reported the City will be positing the vacant librarian and library assistant positions in the next week or two to begin the hiring process.

Julie reminded board members to add any names of community members they have considered for the SELCO-Library Strategies focus groups, noting the meetings for those groups will be taking place on April 13 and 14.

Clinefelter reported the City Council had awarded the bid for the design portion of the library construction project to Armon Architecture, who will begin their work in the next few weeks.

The director invited Stephanie Postma, Sue Grove and Kristi Beckman to report on the Diversity Council meeting of March 10. Stephanie noted it was a good opening to the conversation on a local level. Kristi agreed it was a good way to start on some collaborative efforts and there was strong enthusiasm among those present. Sue added it was good to see new faces getting involved. Julie stated she was at a different community event that night and was seeing how having different people come to the table is helping move efforts forward in new ways, noting the work of the Welcome Center and Parenting Resource Center as part of those efforts.

Stephanie Postma and Shannon Lysne talked about their attendance at a Meet & Greet with State Senator Gene Dornink, organized by SELCO. Julie thanked them for participating in this advocacy effort and noted how important it is for representatives to hear directly from constituents on issues.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The board discussed issues and concerns regarding changes to library job descriptions, and requested additional information on the City's practices and procedures to aid in further conversation.

Stephanie Postma inquired as to whether the City boards would return to in-person meetings. Julie stated she suspected this would be likely before the April Library Board meeting, but she will confirm the status and advise the board members accordingly.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ted Hinchcliffe moved to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.; Stephanie Postma seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Steinhoff, Recording Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, April 11, 2022, 4:30 p.m.