

**The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees met via Zoom on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order by the President, John Thies, at 7:03 p.m. John cited the State Executive Orders which temporarily suspend the in-person presence requirements and eliminate the limitation on remote access of the Illinois Open Meetings Act due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Barb Bennett, Shirese Hursey, Lupe Mejia, Beth Scheid, John Thies, Michael Weissman, Jane Williams, and Gloria Yen

Absent: Mark Pelmore

Staff present: Becky Brown, Dawn Cassady, Celeste Choate, Rachel Fuller, Amanda Standerfer, and Donica Swann

Also present: Brianna Gaspar, Andrea Ruedi, and Ruth Wyman

ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, MODIFICATIONS OF THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

It was moved by Beth Scheid, seconded by Barb Bennett, and passed by roll call vote to approve the agenda as presented. Votes were as follows:

Ayes: Barb Bennett, Shirese Hursey, Lupe Mejia, Beth Scheid, John Thies, Michael Weissman, Jane Williams, and Gloria Yen

Nays: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Ruth Wyman, the Foundation Board President, gave an update on the Foundation to the Library Board. The Foundation is excited to continue to support the Library and is pleased with how the Library has been able to run during COVID-19. Prior to COVID-19, the Foundation concentrated on building donor relations through various events. Since then, they have turned to personal contacts with notes and phone calls. The number of donors doubled between FY19 and FY20. Funds were used in FY21 to support live music concerts, Pygmalion, WIFI hotspots for circulation, an Archives intern, and Development and Promotion staff. Funds for FY22 will be used to cover all of this plus matching the Urbana Arts Grant for a mural on the Webber

Building and supporting staff professional development. John Thies expressed appreciation for Foundation support.

Andrea Ruedi, from the City of Urbana, gave the Board an overview of the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan, providing a vision for Urbana over the next 10 to 20 years. Andrea explained various tools on the Imagine Urbana website that are being used to gather people's input. One challenge is reaching all of the different populations that have connections with Urbana, so the City is depending on partners, such as the Library, to help with outreach. There was discussion about different populations and ways to reach them.

Donica Swann shared with the Board a virtual tour video of the Archives space in Lincoln Square housing the News-Gazette collection. The video was created by Tom Kuipers and Shalini Smith to share with staff on Staff Day. Donica said that the Archives is already filling patron requests for information from the collection.

Celeste Choate updated the Board on the Building Program process. Fred Schlipf has spoken with the Board and the Management Team. He also talked with staff on Staff Day. Fred encouraged staff to think about the building and the contributions they could make towards the Library's future. He encouraged critical feedback about what the Library building does and does not do well now, and he encouraged staff to consider what the Library could be in the future with a different space for the community. Staff are developing a place on intranet with photos and virtual tours of other libraries to inspire creativity and conversations about interesting ideas. The Building Program will be looking at the interior and exterior of the building.

ACTION ITEMS (CONSENT AGENDA)

Being that John Thies asked and saw that there were no requests to separate the items, it was moved by Michael Weissman, seconded by Lupe Mejia, and passed by roll call vote to approve the consent agenda as presented. Votes were as follows:

Ayes: Barb Bennett, Shirese Hursey, Lupe Mejia, Beth Scheid, John Thies, Michael Weissman, Jane Williams, and Gloria Yen

Nays: None

ACTION ITEMS (INDIVIDUAL)

It was moved by Barb Bennett, seconded by Jane Williams, and passed by roll call vote to approve the Resolution 2021-02 to accept the Urbana Arts Grant. Votes were as follows:

Ayes: Barb Bennett, Shirese Hursey, Lupe Mejia, Beth Scheid, John Thies, Michael Weissman, and Gloria Yen

Nays: None

It was moved by Beth Scheid, seconded by Michael Weissman, and passed by roll call vote to approve the Resolution 2021-03 to accept gifts. Votes were as follows:

Ayes: Barb Bennett, Shirese Hursey, Lupe Mejia, Beth Scheid, John Thies, Michael Weissman, and Gloria Yen

Nays: None

It was moved by Jane Williams, seconded by Lupe Mejia, and passed by roll call vote to approve the FY21 budget amendments. Votes were as follows:

Ayes: Barb Bennett, Shirese Hursey, Lupe Mejia, Beth Scheid, John Thies, Michael Weissman, Jane Williams, and Gloria Yen

Nays: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

REPORTS OF LIAISON OFFICERS

Friends of the Library

No report.

The Urbana Free Library Foundation

No further report beyond what Ruth Wyman gave earlier.

Illinois Heartland Library System

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Celeste Choate thanked the Board, reminding them that at the Board meeting a year ago there was discussion about what would be needed if the Library had to shut down. Celeste is pleased and proud of staff and how they have managed to serve the community in difficult times. She thanked the Board for being supportive of staff in the effort to help keep everyone safe.

Shirese Hursey asked about the Etsy store. Celeste explained that right now donation books are being sold, but once things are set up and running smoothly, it may be possible to expand to other items.

Beth Scheid asked about the scope of the needed roof repairs. Celeste said that the leak in the Webber building had been addressed, but there are other roof problems. Three roofing companies are preparing estimates. They have also been asked to look at the Tepper roof and the main building's roof. Their findings will be combined into a list of roof repair and maintenance needs. The chimney on the Tepper building will need more immediate work.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

John Thies echoed Celeste on how wonderful how staff have been this past year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Becky Brown, Recorder

Barb Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved: _____

Supplementary information is available in the Board packet of March 9, 2021.

This meeting was taped for later broadcast.