

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BYLAWS OF THE URBANA FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of The Urbana Free Library is constituted and holds authority as specified in the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*, Chapter 75, Act 5, and other applicable Illinois laws. Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Library.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**Appointment and Terms**

The Board of Trustees is composed of nine members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Each member is appointed for a term of three years, with three members appointed each year. All members must be residents of the City of Urbana, and no more than one may be a member of the City Council.

Election of Officers

The Officers of the Board of Trustees are President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Secretary *pro tempore*. The officers of the Board of Trustees shall be elected annually for a one (1) year term by the Board of Trustees at its first regular meeting subsequent to the appointment of trustees each year by the Mayor and City Council. Officers may succeed themselves in office, but the President may serve no more than a total of three consecutive terms without a break of at least one year. Each officer shall hold office until their successor has been duly elected.

In the event of a vacancy of any officer, the Board shall choose a successor at the first meeting following the vacancy and that person shall hold office until the next regular election of officers.

Duties of Officers

It is the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Board; to appoint all ad hoc committees and liaison officers; to issue calls for special meetings; and to perform all other usual duties of a presiding officer.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President performs all duties of the President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President will perform all the duties of the President until a new President is elected.

It is the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer to insure that an accurate account is kept of the proceedings of the Board; that members of the Board are notified of all regular, standing, special, and ad hoc committee meetings; that the originals of all minutes are kept on file at the Library; and that the Mayor is notified of vacancies on the Board. The Secretary/Treasurer serves as legal custodian of Library funds.

If the Secretary is unable to be present, the Secretary *pro tempore* acts as the Secretary and holds the responsibilities of that office.

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Committees

Standing committees are established by the Board. Current standing committees include the Nominating Committee. Other standing committees may be formed and added at the discretion of the Board. When deemed desirable, the Board may direct the appointment of ad hoc committees, which meet for a limited duration to investigate topics of defined scope.

Liaison Officers

The President of the Board appoints a Board member to serve as a liaison to the Friends of The Urbana Free Library and to report on Friends activities to the Board on a monthly basis.

The President of the Board, or a designee appointed by the President, serves as an ex-officio member on the Board of The Urbana Free Library Foundation and reports to the Library Board about Foundation activities on a monthly basis.

Conflict of Interest

In accordance with the Illinois Ethics Statement [5 ILCS 430], Board members are expected to refrain from prohibited political activities, inappropriate giving and receiving of gifts, and participation or voting on matters in which they have a direct or indirect conflict of interest.

If a trustee is in violation of the Illinois Ethics Statement or exhibits conduct that jeopardizes the Library's reputation or ability to function effectively within the community, the President may request in writing that the Trustee submit their letter of resignation from the Board of Trustees to the Mayor.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Budget

The Board approves an annual budget for the Library and requests the corresponding levy from the Urbana City Council. The budget is reviewed and amended in accordance with the Finance Policy.

Policy

The Board is charged with setting policy for the Library, including policies relating to collection, Library services, patron use, personnel, and its own Board bylaws. The Board reviews and revises specific policies at a minimum frequency recommended by the State Library or more frequently as Library needs arise. Changes to policy may be proposed three days before a meeting. Bylaws are reviewed at least every three years.

Planning Documents

The Board anticipates and directs the development of future Library services through multi-year planning documents. Such documents include a Strategic Plan, a Technology Plan, and a multi-year Financial Plan. The Board complies with any local, state, or federal requirements specifying the frequency of revision.

Hiring of Executive Director

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The Board hires the Executive Director, negotiates an employment contract, conducts performance evaluations on an annual basis, and may terminate employment in accordance with the contract. The Executive Director serves as the administrative officer of the Library under the direction of the Board. The Executive Director has responsibility and authority in accordance with Library policy. These responsibilities include:

- The care and use of the Library and its collections.
- The selection, hiring, promotion, and dismissal of personnel.
- The selection of Library materials.
- The expenditure of Library funds as authorized by the Board in its approval of the annual budget.
- Other duties as assigned by the Board.
- The Executive Director attends all Board meetings and ad hoc committee meetings, except those at which their appointment or dismissal or salary is to be discussed or decided.

Although the Board sets policy to guide the overall operation of the Library, the procedural implementation of policy and the daily operations of the Library are managed by the Executive Director and Library staff.

BOARD MEETINGS

Call for Meetings

Special meetings of the Board are held upon call, either by the President or upon written request of three members of the Board.

Ad hoc committee meetings are held upon direction of the Board.

All meetings of The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees shall conform to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120).

Order of Business

The order of business is determined by the Board and may be changed at their discretion.

Quorum

A majority of the Board members currently serving constitutes a quorum.

Conduct of Business

Robert's Rules of Order Revised

Public Comment

Any person who seeks to address the Board at a public meeting will be permitted to speak on any matter listed on the agenda or on any other matter germane to Library concern.

Public comments are the first items addressed under Public Input in the agenda. The presiding chair may require persons wishing to speak to sign in before the start of the meeting and to provide their

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names. Prior to speaking, each person must be recognized by the presiding chair and must state their name for the public record.

Public comment is limited to no more than five minutes per person and to no more than two hours per meeting, unless extended by consent of a majority vote of the members present. The presiding chair or Secretary shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the time allotted has expired.

If the presiding chair recognizes that more than twenty persons desire to speak, they may limit each speaker to comments of no more than three minutes.

Whenever any group of persons wishes to address the Board on the same topic, the presiding chair may ask that a spokesperson be chosen from the group. If additional matters are to be presented by other persons in the group, the presiding chair may limit the number of such persons and may limit the presentation to information not already presented by the group spokesperson.

Persons invited by the presiding chair to address the Board are subject to such time limits as the majority of the members present may prescribe.

Attendance at Meetings

Members of The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees are expected to attend every meeting. Vacancies shall be declared provided as in Section 4.4 in the Illinois Local Library Act, 75 ILCS 5.

Electronic Attendance

The Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/7 provides for electronic participation in lieu of physical presence at a public meeting as defined by the Act, provided that there is a quorum physically present at the meeting. In accordance with this Act, a Board member may participate and vote electronically at public meetings of The Urbana Free Library, if the member is unable to physically attend due to: (1) personal illness or disability, (2) employment purposes or business related to The Urbana Free Library, (3) family or other emergency, or (4) unexpected childcare obligations.

In order for such participation to be valid, the member must provide notice sufficiently in advance of the meeting for the Library to be able to provide the technical means necessary to fulfill the request to participate by video or audio conference.

The Board may deny the member's electronic attendance request by a 2/3 vote if the request does not meet one of the above criteria.

The member may vote on motions and issues coming before the body, but their vote shall not count towards the necessary physical presence of a quorum.

5 ILCS 120/7 (e) provides for meetings held during a public health disaster that do not require the physical presence of a quorum.

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Adopted: April 11, 1977

Amended: October 8, 2013; January 13, 2015; May 12, 2015; October 13, 2015; December 8, 2015;
May 14, 2019; September 15, 2020; October 10, 2023, September 10, 2024