

HOMEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting, March 20, 2019

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

President Percy Harris called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Trustees George Bouchie, Percy Harris, Thomas Nowak, Yoka Ward and Catherine Uecker. Absent were Trustees Cece Belue and Adrienne River. Also present was Interim Director Kathy Parker. The recorders of minutes were Michelle Snoddy and Kathy Parker.

GUESTS

Barbara Johnson, Tom Schultz, Elizabeth Kaye, Pia Davis, Sue Dralle, Wille R. Lee, Sharon Lade, Lemare Van, Rosemary Brownny, Marsha Tapley, Juanita A. Nutting, Mary Rimdzius, Mary Rakovic, Larry Crist, Timothy Martin, Robert Stasik, Peg Bairen, Hunter Kutz, Zandra Henry, David Zabor, Nancy Gildart, Mary Anne Limas, J.R. Rose, Laura Sonnck, David Martin, Sherry Jameau, Joan Stroltin, Diedra Owens, Stephen Banagik, Jennifer Glover, David Paul, Margaret Novak, John Novak, Amber Degan-Katzberger, Aaron Grady, Dave Kennelly, Inma Galen, Dwight Taylor, Andrew Lindstrom, Jon Cook, Jim Stiltz, Terry Noe, Deanna Noe, Kathleen Trepton, John Massejlia, David M., Bruce Felgen, Susan Dritz, Rand Dritz, Tamara Jackson, Terry Reynolds, Shannon Ford, Deb Cosella, Carol Swingle, Susan Norman, Sue Messaglia, Ember O'Neal Jahnke, Susan Hoffman, Colin Chisek, Nan Wexler, Sandra Sullivan, Nicole Peats, Melissa Frew, Jessica M. Alexander, Kelly Campos, Tori Alt, Britta Krabill, Mary Wegrzyn, Angela Messaglia, Jill Postma, Lea Nelson, John Tryznski

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following persons addressed the board. Please note that attributed statements are condensed, in some cases extremely, from limited transcriptions.

Pia Davis, SEI Union President: it is appalling that it has taken so long to negotiate a contract.

Kelly Campos, Library staff: the staff are dedicated and hardworking; they love their jobs, the library and the community.

Sue Dralle, Friends of Library and past trustee: the library is broken; please fix it.

Jennifer Glover, Glenwood resident: make a decision.

Rosemary Browning: HPL has great service and welcoming staff.

Mary Racobic: this is the best library and the staff is wonderful.

Britta, former staff member of three months: disparaged former director and current interim director.

Andrew Lindstrom, former staff member: disparaged former director; says staff deserve a contract; contract terms offered to date by management are unacceptable.

Deb Dennison, former staff member: disparaged former director; board should “wake up” and address budget now; contract terms offered to date by management are unacceptable.

Kim Beatty, union member: notes that most of the staff are women; notes that the HF Chronicle has not covered contract discussions; urges resolution.

John Cook, Bloom Township HS faculty union president: says “do the right thing.”

Tom Schultz: has been involved in many negotiations on the management side; urges setting aside emotions and dealing with issues.

Dave Zaburn: Homewood is advertising its appeal but the library situation is bad publicity.

Tim Martin, candidate for library trustee: notes that communication has broken down.

Deanna Noe: the library collection has declined and should be restored.

Terry Noe, president of Local 124: who chose the last director?

JR Rose, HFHS staff: libraries are special and so are the staff who work here; people are more valuable than dollars.

Aaron Grady: library collection has dwindled in the past couple of months; something needs to happen.

Jill Postma, staff member: thanks to all the people who showed up.

Steve Banasick, HFHS faculty: the board has to balance lots of interests.

CONSENT AGENDA (Action with Roll Call Vote)

- Approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2019, Finance Committee meeting minutes of February 28, 2019.
- Acceptance of the Financial Report of February 28, 2019.
- Approval of General Fund Registers dated February 21, 2019 and March 11, 2019.
- Approval of General Fund Check Registers dated February 21, 2019, January 23, 2019, and February 6, 2019.
- Acceptance of the Bills Payable Report in the amount of \$289,303.35.
- Acceptance of the Payrolls February 2019 IMRF and FICA.
- Acceptance of the February 2019 Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2019.
- Acceptance of the FY2019 YTD Actual Vs. Budget.
- Acceptance of the February 2019 Statistical Report.

Catherine Uecker moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Nowak seconded.. Roll Call vote: Bouchie - aye, Nowak - aye, Uecker - aye, Ward – aye, Harris - aye. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

- pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)2 to discuss collective bargaining matters
- pursuant to 5 ILCS120/2 (c)11 to consider pending litigation

At 7:57 PM Ms. Uecker moved to go into closed session, Mr. Novak seconded. Roll Call vote: Bouchie - aye, Nowak - aye, Uecker - aye, Ward – aye, Harris - aye. Motion carried.

At 8:31 PM Ms. Uecker moved to go reconvene open session, Mr. Novak seconded. Roll Call vote: Bouchie - aye, Nowak - aye, Uecker - aye, Ward – aye, Harris - aye. Motion carried

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The board issued a statement:

“In accordance with good faith bargaining procedures, the board will not negotiate this contract in public. We will uphold our responsibility to protect the interest of the library, the staff, and the community it serves. We encourage the staff, union representatives, and community not to put stock in rumors or misinformation during a process that should be deliberate and which all concerned, including the board, hopes reaches a speedy conclusion. We would also like to share that we as board members are also members of this community and we love our Library and our wonderful staff as much as you do.”

OLD BUSINESS

- Meristem Advisors – Board requested that this be discussed in Finance committee meeting – moved to committee

NEW BUSINESS

- Evaluation of new director – Ms. Parker discussed the evaluation included in the packet. The board suggested that this be discussed in Personnel committee meeting. He will bring a proposal to next month’s board meeting.

INTERIM DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Parker presented a written report. An oral addition to the report:

- Eight candidates have applied so far for the director position.
- Is working on FY2020 budget. She has been able to trim some costs for next year such that current draft is only \$21,000 in the red. She and management team will continue to dig deep into the line items, and negotiate as many vendor contract as possible to find savings.
- Collection Materials line item on budget – the line item should be at 66% spent for

this time in the budget year, but the line currently at 73%. We have ceased all ordering except for the NYT best sellers, standing orders, popular orders and popular audio books and movies. Hopefully the March financials will be closer to where we need to be.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Facilities – No report.
- Finance - No report.
- Personnel Policy - No report.
- Policy - No report.

PATRON COMMENTS – Board reviewed written comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:51 p.m., Ms. Ward moved to adjourn. Mr. Nowak seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Accepted _____

Percy Harris, President

**George Bouchie on behalf of
Adrienne River, Secretary**