

# MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2021 6:15PM VIA ZOOM

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**Members Present:** Jeanne Campion, Carrie Heimann, Chris Moore, Brian Paragi (arrived after opening statement), Rebekah Rhode, Kristen Streeter **Not Present:** Kevin Kelsey **Also present:** John Howard, Kate Smith, Maura Stutzman

Chris Moore opened the meeting with the following statement:

“For the record, the Mahomet Public Library District is able to conduct this electronic meeting because of Governor Pritzker’s Executive Orders #2020-07 (March 16th, 2020) and #2020-08 (April 1st, 2020). These orders suspend the Open Meetings Act provision relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body. Specifically, they suspend the requirement that members of a public body must be physically present and they also suspend the limitations on when remote participation is allowed.

- An in-person meeting is not prudent due to the COVID 19 disaster.
- All members and guests must be able to hear all discussion to satisfy the Open Meeting portions.
- One member is physically present at the library (Mr. John Howard).
- All votes will be roll call.
- This meeting will be recorded.
- A quorum is still required.
- Trustees will refrain from using the chat feature in order to comply fully with the Open Meetings Act.”

### Approval of the Minutes for January 11, 2021

Rebekah Rhode moved to approve the minutes from January 11, 2021. Brian Paragi seconded. There was no discussion. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

### Treasurer's Report

Jeanne Campion moved to approve the financial report for January 2021. Brian Paragi seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Jeanne Campion moved to approve the check register for January 2021. Brian Paragi seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Carrie Heimann asked why the amount paid to Sangamon on Main was smaller. John Howard explained that January’s rent was prorated because the library paid the full rent for December, but didn’t take possession until later in the month.

### Director’s Report

John Howard submitted the director’s report before the meeting.

He added that he has been tweaking plans for the AARP tax service, making changes that have not yet been approved by AARP, but he hopes to keep the service at the library.

In response to staff feedback on the library’s website, Rebekah Rhode asked what “overdesign” meant and John replied that he thinks it was meant to say “overall design.” Chris Moore stated that it sounds like library staff is generally amicable to changing the website and asked about the way forward. John said that the next step is to make plans for the next steps. Jeanne Campion pointed out that it would be good to step aside and see if the changes are things the library needs to pay Surface 51 to do or things library staff can update. John agreed and said changes aren’t likely going to be done until the next year’s budget and that the library would have to solicit competing bids. Carrie Heimann asked about having local teens help with the programming and Maura Stutzman said the library doesn’t have a teen programming group, but that they could look to the high school for help.

Jeanne Campion said that she listened to John’s interview with Fred Kroner and she liked the description of the offsite storage and also appreciated that he acknowledged the assistance of Rotary. She asked if the interview could be linked on the library’s website.

### Audience Comments – no comments

### Committee Reports – no reports

John Howard reported that the policy committee will be meeting in March.

### New Business

#### A. Discussion of Use of Unique Management Collection Agency

John Howard and Kate Smith submitted a report before the meeting regarding the efficacy of the library’s relationship with Unique Management Services. John told the board that this is the time to decide if the library will continue using a collection agency and asked if the benefits the library receives are worth negative publicity.

Brian Paragi stated that he wrestles with this, because he is a rule follower and also likes saving every last penny, but he is also realistic and knows that negative publicity may not be worth saving a few hundred dollars. Chris Moore said he thought the library might be equally damaged if rule followers say the library has no consequences. John pointed out that the collection agency isn't really a consequence, since patrons can ignore them and they have no teeth.

Rebekah Rhode asked if this topic could be combined with the discussion of a fine-free policy, schedule for the March meeting. John agree that many of the same issues could be discussed.

Chris Moore asked for addition data on the number of patrons who are bad actors and Kate Smith agreed to get this number to the board.

John asked board members to send him any questions they have about collections and going fine free if they want more information before the March meeting.

Jeanne Campion stated that she'd like the books back, but she also wants people to return to the library, bring their kids, and continue to use the library. John agreed, stating that his greatest fear is driving people away from the library.

## **B. Statements of Economic Interest**

John Howard reminded board members that they are required to fill out their Statements of Economic Interest with the county clerk.

## **C. Recommendation Regarding Closed Minutes**

Chris Moore reported that he reviewed the library's closed session minutes and recommended that the following minutes be opened to the public: July 14, 2014; November 8, 2014; March 15, 2017; September 11, 2017; July 7, 2018; February 11, 2019; and April 8, 2019. He gave the board a brief description of the contents of each of the minutes.

Carrie Heimann moved to open all of these minutes. Rebekah Rhode seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

## **Strategic Plan Update – no update**

### **Board Advocacy**

Carrie Heiman stated that several of her neighbors had told her they wish the library could do the murder mystery and they hope it will happen in the future when it is safe to do so.

Jeanne Campion said that some of her tutoring students have expressed worries about their internet connection dropping and that she reminded them that the library internet is available, even in the parking lot.

John Howard told the board that the Illinois Library Association's legislative meetups will be on Zoom on February 26 at 8am, explaining that this is a chance for library staff and trustees to meet with their legislators and advocate for libraries.

### **Trustee Comments**

Kristen Streeter said that she participated in the Try Something New Year Pound Fit event and she had picked up her first craft kit that day. She sent a message to library staff to keep up the good work.

Jeanne Campion sent her thanks to the staff, saying that every time she goes to the library she feels so welcomed and that little things make a difference.

Carrie Heimann commented that she really likes the greeter station and enjoys seeing a friendly face and chatting for a few minutes.

Chris Moore told Maura Stutzman that he picked up a teen book box for his daughter and she liked the title. He said he'd let Maura know how it goes. He also told the board that he tried to log on to the board account the upload files and there were technical difficulties, so he will be trying again.

### **Adjournment**

Jeanne Campion moved to adjourn the meeting. Carrie Heimann seconded; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.

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Respectfully Submitted by Kate Smith, Business Manager