

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2021-3

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 6:15PM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present: Susie Baker, Jeanne Campion, Carrie Heimann (arrived during Board Advocacy), Kevin Kelsey, Chris Moore, Rebekah Rhode,
Not Present: Kristen Streeter **Also present:** John Howard, Kate Smith

The hearing was opened at 6:15pm. There were no comments. The hearing closed at 6:16pm.

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 6:16PM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present: Susie Baker, Jeanne Campion, Carrie Heimann (arrived during Board Advocacy), Kevin Kelsey, Chris Moore, Rebekah Rhode,
Not Present: Kristen Streeter **Also present:** John Howard, Kate Smith

Approval of the Minutes for August 9, 2021

Kevin Kelsey moved to approve the minutes from August 9, 2021. Rebekah Rhode seconded; the motion passed by general consent. There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin Kelsey moved to approve the preliminary financial report for August 2021. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Jeanne Campion moved to approve the check register for August 2021. Rebekah Rhode seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Kevin Kelsey asked about the small check written to the Bethalto Public Library. John Howard replied that this was for a lost or damaged item. Chris Moore asked about the approximately \$9,000 check to Illinois Heartland Library System and John explained that this check was for annual membership and other fees.

Director's Report

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

Jeanne Campion commented that she was happy the library will be a place for people who want the vaccine and that she assumed the clinic would take place in the meeting room. John said that it would be and added that it was an easy decision to say yes to this event.

Rebekah Rhode told Maura Stutzman that an older man approached her at the Music Festival and told her that he lives behind the library and it would make his day to see the children outside during story time.

Rebekah Rhode also commented that she couldn't believe how often there is an order to display the flag at half-staff. Chris Moore told the board that he had recommended that the library follow the federal half-staff orders, but not those from the state. Chris also said that the library should have something in the lobby stating why the flag is at half-staff.

Rebekah Rhode noted that John had spoken to a group about the Talking Books program and suggested that the library put a set at the information desk so people could see it and try it.

Jeanne Campion said that she liked that John listed the staff members who had received shout outs that month.

Audience Comments – no comments

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds Committee

Chris Moore told the board that the Building and Grounds Committee met on August 30 and had a thorough discussion about priorities for the expansion as they bring the size down to 28,000 square feet. He observed that this size is very close to what the library wanted when they built the current building, but were unable to get. He told the board that the juvenile area is one of the main purposes of the expansion and that the committee also recommends having a gathering space. He also reported that the committee discussed areas that could be trimmed if necessary.

John Howard told the board that he will coordinate with Fred Schlipf on the changes in anticipation of a full board review by November.

Chris Moore told the board that the committee discussed the way ahead for the grant application and set the following rough timeline:

- The Building and Grounds Committee will interview architects in October and November.
- The hired architect will create a concept drawing over the next couple of months, with two more months set aside for the board and the architect to work through changes.
- The grant proposal will be submitted in April 2022.

John Howard reminded the board that they may not be ready to go to the community yet, but they want to be ready for the grant application, since they could receive 49% of the necessary funds. Chris Moore added that the committee has some thoughts on financing, but that is contingent on receiving the grant funding. Rebekah Rhode told the board that this building plan works if the library receives the grant money, but if the library does not get a grant, the committee intends to downsize the plan before going to the voters.

Jeanne Campion commented that the library's auditor told her that if the library receives federal grant money, the auditor needs to be involved to ensure that things are handled correctly.

Personnel Committee

Chris Moore told the board that the personnel committee will be meeting soon to begin planning for the next annual director review.

New Business

A. Adoption Ordinance 2021-3, Budget and Appropriations

This ordinance was submitted for approval by the finance committee. Roll call vote; all trustees voted to approve the ordinance.

B. Consideration of Renewal of QSEHRA

John Howard summarized the purpose of the QSEHRA for new board members and said that library staff recommend continuing the QSEHRA at the current level of \$5,000 per member per year. Rebekah Rhode asked how many staff members currently qualify for this and John told her there are five.

Kevin Kelsey voted to renew the QSEHRA at the current level. Jeanne Campion seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

C. Consideration Intergovernmental Agreement with Mahomet-Seymour Schools

John Howard submitted this agreement before the meeting and told the board that the library's attorney still needed to review the latest changes. Jeanne Campion moved to approve this agreement, pending an acceptable review by the library attorney. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Jeanne Campion commented that this is a fabulous way for all students to have library access. Kevin Kelsey asked if the idea originated with the library or the school district. John Howard told him that he submitted the idea to the school superintendent when he first came to the library, but that the pandemic had put a hold on the agreement.

Strategic Plan Update

Chris Moore reminded the board about the upcoming strategic planning session on September 18.

John Howard told the board that library staff met in August to discuss the mission and values and ideas for the library going forward. He stated that he thought this was one of the best things the library has done and that he would bring some of these outcomes to the board session.

He also asked if board members would think about their ideas for library values before the meeting. He told the board that the meeting would accomplish three things:

- Creation of a values statement based on staff and trustees ideas for library values,
- Creation of a new mission statement, starting from three suggestions from staff, and
- Creation of broad strategic goals for the next few years.

He added that library staff members are submitting starting points, but that the board is never limited to what staff members suggest. He reminded the board that they would be reviewing and discussing objectives and for each set of goals at subsequent regular board meetings. He also told the board that the library leadership team would attend the meeting to be a resource for trustees on the staff perspective.

John Howard and Kate Smith reminded the board to review websites before the meeting, considering what each website reveals about the library's personality and programs, as well as the structure of the website itself.

Board Advocacy

Review of Mahomet Music Festival

The general consensus of the board was that they loved participating in the festival and thought it was a great success. Jeanne Campion commented that she loved the location of the library's booth. Carrie Heiman said that a food vendor approached her and said that he is at festivals all over the state and that this is the first time he has seen a public library at one.

Other Activities

Jeanne Campion said that the Rotary Club will be helping at the Soda Festival this year and wondered if volunteering like this is something library trustees should consider in the future.

Trustee Comments

Rebekah Rhode said that she was almost sorry that everyone could not have attended the Building and Grounds Committee meeting, saying that it was exciting and informative.

Jeanne Campion asked how staff is doing with the new mask mandate and everything related to this. John Howard said that things were fine, adding that more people are coming in the door without masks and the staff member at the desk just hands them one.

Chris Moore thanked the trustees for participating in the Music Festival and said that he was looking forward to the strategic planning session.

Adjournment

Rebekah Rhode moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Kelsey seconded; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Kate Smith, Business Manager