

# MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 10, 2022 6:15PM ON ZOOM

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**Members Present:** Susie Baker, Jeanne Campion (left during Strategic Plan discussion), Carrie Heimann, Kevin Kelsey, Rebekah Rhode, Kristen Streeter **Not Present:** Chris Moore **Also present:** John Howard, Kate Smith, Maura Stutzman

Kevin Kelsey 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.”

Kevin Kelsey read the library’s mission statement: “Together we create a welcoming community that empowers everyone to learn, connect, create, and grow.”

### Approval of the Minutes for December 13, 2021

Rebekah Rhode moved to approve the minutes from December 13, 2021. Carrie Heimann seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion. There was no discussion.

### Treasurer's Report

Jeanne Campion moved to approve the financial report for December 2021. Rebekah Rhode seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

John Howard pointed out that the December TIF distribution brings the total for the year to over \$101,000, which is \$36,000 over budget. He added that this is about the same amount the library expects to pay the architect, which makes it a nice surprise. He reminded the board that because of how new construction is taxed, this TIF amount is not likely to be repeated in the next fiscal year.

Jeanne Campion moved to approve the check register for December 2021. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Carrie Heimann asked about the \$256,900 check and John said it was the recent bond payment.

### Director's Report

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

He pointed out that some lights in the library are a different color because not all of them have been changed to LED yet. The electrician is waiting for special bulbs for dimmer and emergency lights.

Rebekah Rhode asked if anything had been resolved about the electronic sign repair. John said that the library is not going to pay for the repairs because the sign is under warranty. He said he was still waiting for a representative from the sign company to come by and look at the sign because John has concerns about the quality of the repair work.

Jeanne Campion commented that she does not use TikTok, but that she was excited about the viral video. She asked if the library had posted it to other social media. Kate Smith and Maura Stutzman said that they had posted to Instagram, but didn’t have to do so on Facebook because other libraries did so and tagged the Mahomet Library.

John Howard pointed out the statistics, saying that with COVID, it is hard to judge what the numbers mean. He said that he was unhappy at the decrease in circulation numbers and at a loss to explain why they were low, but that the people counts were up. Kevin Kelsey commented that it is hard to put much stock in statistics, good or bad, because COVID skews everything. Carrie Heimann said that she understands the disappointment with the checkout numbers, but she thought the increase in people counts aligns well with the strategic plan initiatives.

John Howard told the board that he had met with the architect, along with the leadership team and Rebekah Rhode, and they

reviewed the new design documents with a higher level of detail. He added that he thinks the plan is exciting, practical, and well thought out. He told the board he sent the documents to them and that they will be meeting with the architect on Monday, January 31. He also told the board that he was waiting on a call from the state to determine if the soil sample report from ten years ago is sufficient or if the library will have to pay for a new one. Rebekah Rhode asked if John still felt comfortable that they would meet the March 15 deadline and John said he did. Rebekah also asked if he needed assistance from the trustees and John said that coming to the next meeting would be helpful.

## **Audience Comments—no comments**

## **Committee Reports – no reports**

## **New Business**

### **A. Board Volunteer to Review Closed Session Minutes**

Susie Baker volunteered to perform this task.

## **Strategic Plan**

### **A. Review of Action Items for All Sections of the New Strategic Plan**

John Howard and Kate Smith worked through the action items with the board and made some changes.

### **B. Final Review of Progress on 2019-2021 Strategic Plan**

John Howard thanked the board for reviewing the progress quarterly and hoped they would continue to do so with the new plan. There was no other discussion about the old plan.

## **Board Advocacy**

John Howard reminded the board that they planned to discuss a possible April date for the murder mystery event at the February meeting.

He also told the board that things are beginning to ramp up for the Run to the Library event to be held the first Saturday in June, describing it as a fun run/walk to the library and a carnival on library grounds. He reminded the board that this will be a joint fundraiser for the Friends of the Library and the Rotary Club of Mahomet

## **Trustee Comments**

Rebekah Rhode told the board she got to sit in on the meeting with the architect and she found it really exciting. She said she was very confident that the board chose the right architect, describing him as innovative, but keeping the library's budget in mind.

## **Adjournment**

Rebekah Rhode moved to adjourn the meeting. Carrie Heimann seconded; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

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Respectfully Submitted by Kate Smith, Business Manager