

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING NOVEMBER 14 6:15PM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present: Susie Baker, Carrie Heimann, Chris Moore, Rebekah Rhode

Not Present: Jeanne Campion, Kevin Kelsey, Kristen Streeter **Also present:** John Howard, Kate Smith

Chris Moore opened the meeting by reading the library's mission statement: "Together we create a welcoming community that empowers everyone to learn, connect, create, and grow."

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2022

Rebekah Rhode asked that a few words be changed to better reflect what she said about arranging the collection by genre.

Carrie Heimann moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for October 10, 2022 as amended. Susie Baker seconded; the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Carrie Heimann moved to approve the financial report for October 2022. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Rebekah Rhode moved to approve the check register for October 2022. Carrie Heimann seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

There was no discussion.

Director's Report

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

Rebekah Rhode asked how Election Day went. John said that it was very exciting, with 1397 people coming through the door and approximately 900 people voting. He said that the line was well into the children's area most of the day. He said that he loves having the library serve as a polling place, but noted that it does take the Edgar Room out of commission, making it challenging for library programming.

Rebekah also asked about the large donation to the library, wondering if the library was doing anything to publicize this. John said that the donation would be recorded on the donor wall, but that the donor did not want any other publicity.

Rebekah asked about the new library chat service and expressed concern that chats may interrupt staff members when they are working on projects. John explained that the person at the Help Desk is the primary person to respond to chats, followed by the staff member in the south workroom, then the person manning the circulation desk, and lastly John and Kate to back them up. He also noted that if he or Kate is working on a project, they can turn off their availability to answer chats.

John pointed out from his report that the library's website is running on a version of Drupal that will soon be out of date and that he had received a quote to update it from the library's current website designer. He told the board that he would get a quote from another vendor and provide a more detailed report for the January meeting. Rebekah Rhode asked if this expense would come in the current fiscal year and John told her it might, but it might also be delayed to the next fiscal year. Carrie Heimann noted that the statistics report showed a decrease in web site visits and asked about how many people were using the new app. John said there had been 896 launches of the app in October and the number increases each month. Carrie asked if more features could be added to the app and John said he'd been talking with Illinois Heartland about working with Solus (the app designer) to add more features.

Carrie Heimann said she had heard a lot of positive comments about the library serving as a polling place, but she heard that some people were confused because they thought the polling place would be open during all of the library's open hours. John said that library staff tried hard to communicate clearly, but some people were still confused. Rebekah Rhode asked if other places had different hours and John said the county had three different dates: very early, early, and Election Day. The library had early voting and Election Day voting, but not "very early." The Elks Pavilion at the Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve was open for all the dates. Chris Moore encouraged the trustees to use things like this to educate the community, such as reminding them that we aren't providing the voting services, only providing a location.

Audience Comments

Mike Cunningham said that he served as an Election Judge at the library and that this was a much better place than where he served before. He said "bravo" to the entire library staff for their support.

Chris Moore asked if all of the audience members who were not library staff were there because they were interested in running for the board of trustees. When they said that they were, he invited them to introduce themselves and speak about their interest in joining the board.

Mike Cunningham said that he was interested in joining the board because he has a desire to serve. He said that he and his wife are

community-focused and like to serve. He added that they love the library and use it all the time and he likes this way to give back.

Stevie Stutzman said she moved to Mahomet a year ago from Arthur, Illinois, where she served on their library board. She said she is an educator by background and libraries mean a lot to her professionally and personally, and she wants to serve and give back.

Glenna Weith said that she was around when the current library was built. She said she is a retired attorney, and she is looking for something to do to help the community. She said she is impressed by the library and she remembers the work involved to pass the referendum for the current building. She said she knows there are eventual plans to expand the facility and after watching the school referendum attempts, she decided she would like to help with the library's plans.

Chris Moore explained for those who might not know that the library plans to eventually ask voters to approve money for an expansion without raising tax rates, because the library will first raise a significant portion of the funds through a state grant and other fundraising.

Scott Schaumann said that he was attending the meeting to observe and try to decide if he is interested in running for the board.

Chris Moore encouraged those planning to run to read the library's strategic plan, noting that John uses it to make new plans and run the library.

Committee Reports – No Reports

New Business

A. Acceptance of Audit

John Howard reminded the board that the preliminary audit was presented at the October meeting, but at that time it still needed to go through one last review. He said that the review was completed and there were no changes from the report the trustees saw at that meeting.

Susie Baker moved to accept the 2022 audit report. Rebekah Rhode seconded. Roll call vote; all trustees voted in favor of the motion.

B. Consideration of Options for Health Insurance Coverage and Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Mahomet

Chris Moore reminded the board that John Howard submitted a proposal in the board packet for the library to sign an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Mahomet to allow library staff to join the Village's health care plan. He asked John to explain more fully.

John Howard told the board that if they look closely at the text of the agreement, there are some "outs" for the Village. The Village learned that if they became a large group, they would lose their current plan, which is a grandfathered plan they like very much. Therefore, John explained that all of the points in Section 4 really mean that if by including library employees the Village becomes forced to change their plan, they will end the intergovernmental agreement (IGA). John added that the library attorney reviewed the IGA and is fine with it, but he suggested that any library staff covered by the plan be given a written warning that this could happen. John concluded by saying that it is unlikely the Village will end the IGA.

Chris Moore reminded the board that they have been working toward this for some time and that he also believes it is best practice for attracting good people in the future. Chris also stated that this is an example of good government, with one entity helping another.

Rebekah Rhode said that she thought the library had to treat everyone who works 30 hours or more per week equally. John said this was correct, but that at this time, only two people who qualify are interested. Carrie Heimann commented that they need to recognize that this could change. John agreed, but added it might be that not all of the positions that currently qualify would remain at 30 hours or more when the current staff members leave and are replaced.

Rebekah stated that the library needs to be financially prepared to offer five people health insurance. Carrie said that Rebekah was right that they need to consider that in their long-term thinking, but that it is okay to project that only a certain number will take it.

Chris Moore asked Kate Smith to summarize the budget portion. Kate explained that she included coverage for three people, one at 80% and the other two at 50%, in her projections, as well as continued use of the QSEHRA, and this is sustainable. She added that if, at any time, all five staff members accept the insurance, the projections call for dropping the QSEHRA, so that the financial impact remains sustainable.

Rebekah said again that the library needs to be prepared to cover five staff members at all times and Kate said that they absolutely can.

Carrie Heimann said that she is totally comfortable using taxpayer dollars to offer health insurance to library staff. She also recommended waiting on the details [percentages] until the December meeting, since several board members are absent.

Carrie Heimann moved to enter into the intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Mahomet. Susie Baker seconded. Roll call vote; Rebekah Rhode voted no and all others voted in favor of the motion.

C. Recommendation on Holiday Hours 2022

John Howard submitted a proposal before the meeting to close at 5pm the week between Christmas and New Year's, noting that, per policy, the library will be fully closed on December 24, 25, 26 and January 1 and 2.

Rebekah Rhode asked how the hours will be publicized so that people don't still show up. John said library staff will use all tools available to them, including the website, social media, and the sign.

Rebekah also observed that now that it is getting dark early, it's easy to tell if the library is open when approaching from the west, but it's difficult when approaching from the east, because of where lights are and are not on in the building.

Rebekah suggested that the library try closing early this year and if staff members receive too many complaints, they won't do it again next year. Carrie Heimann agreed. Susie Baker suggested the staff post a bigger sign on the front door with hours to let people know.

Susie Baker moved to close the library at 5pm on December 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2022; Carrie Heimann seconded. The motion passed.

Strategic Plan – No Report

Board Advocacy

John Howard summarized the options for the February 2022 murder mystery event:

- The Methodist Church (no alcohol allowed)
- The training room at the fire department (no alcohol allowed)
- The Elks Lake Pavilion at the Lake of the Woods (alcohol is allowed there, but the bathrooms are outside)

After some discussion, the board agreed that their first choice is the Methodist church. John said that he would contact the church.

Rebekah Rhode asked if John had a theme for the event yet and John said he did not. Rebekah asked for a theme that made it easy for people to come in costume, since that worked so well in 2020. Carrie Heimann agreed. It was agreed that a script set in a particular period would be best for this. John said he would come up with some options for the December meeting.

Trustee Comments

Carrie Heimann thanked the audience members interested in running for a seat on the board for coming to the meeting and for their interest in serving.

Chris Moore agreed and also thanked his fellow board members for serving the community in this way.

Closed Session

Rebekah Rhode moved to enter closed session pursuant to Illinois Statue ILCS 120/2(c)(1) in order to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Susie Baker seconded. The motion passed and the board entered closed session at 7:27pm.

The board returned from closed session at 7:59pm.

Adjournment

Rebekah Rhode moved to adjourn the meeting. Carrie Heimann seconded; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Kate Smith, Business Manager