

SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY March 27, 2019, 7 PM
SOUTHFIELD ROOM

Present: Euni Rose, Carole McCollough, Laura Mancini, Terry Selman, Bruce Collins, Howard Haynes, Allyson Bettis (in for Irv), Dave Ewick, Mayor Kenson Siver

- I. **CALL TO ORDER – President Rose called the meeting to order at 7:08 and welcomed new board member Bruce Collins.**

- II. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – Motion to adopt the agenda by Selman. Support Mancini. Motion approved 5-0.**

- III. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Motion to approve the consent agenda by Selman. Support McCollough. Motion carried 5-0.**
 - A. February 2019 Minutes
 - B. February 2019 Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for year 2018 – Ewick noted that the library finished 2018 with expenditures well below revenues, allowing an increase in fund balance of \$1,281,609.
 - b. Capital Improvements Plan / Budget – Planning for upcoming repairs and maintenance are underway. The healthy fund balance will allow the library to pay for this needed work in future budgets.
 - c. 2020 Budget update – The library’s budget hearing was held and the budget was accepted with a 1.7% increase in operational spending over 2018. Personnel figures are not yet available but will be shared when they are released.
 - C. Correspondence/Articles
 - a. Library Fountain & Whale
 - b. PuppetART moves to Southfield
 - c. Oakland County Libraries

- IV. **FORMAL REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**
 - A. Mayor Siver - Approval of Service Contract with the Friends of Southfield Public Art. Siver asked the board to approve and sign the attached service contract to install the Moby Dick sculpture into the fountain and to repair the fountain to its former working state as created by City Attorney Beth Rae O’Donnell. **Motion to approve and sign the contract by McCollough. Support Selman. Motion carried 5-0.** Ewick will submit the minutes of this meeting to Director of Fiscal Services Austen Michaels.

Mayor Siver also asked about efforts to increase the amount of the contract with Lathrup Village. (Currently LV residents pay 1 mills vs. the 2.8 mills paid by Southfield residents). Ewick stated that he has been in contact with the City Administrator and Treasurer who indicated that they cannot increase their payment without increasing the millage rate. Ewick noted that only about 25% of Lathrup residents have library cards, which made Lathrup administration uncomfortable about trying to pass a millage increase. Siver noted that it is faulty logic to equate actual use to benefit. Ewick was instructed to review the contract and share it with the board at the next meeting. Board members expressed a desire to invite Lathrup's Mayor and Administrator to a coming board meeting to discuss options.

V. REPORTS

Director's Report:

Battle of the Books was another success with 31 teams signed up in the 4-5th grade Battle and XX in the Middle School Challenge! I have nothing but praise for our Youth Division. They hustle and work like a true team!

PuppetART! – This month you will notice several programs involving PuppetART; a new resident of Southfield as of 2018. Plans are for them to be partners with us in many programs. (See article for more info).

Vacation – Dave will be on vacation March 30-April 8. Mary Beall is in charge.

Personnel:

- Still hiring Part Time Sub Librarians & non-career people to prepare for expanding library hours.
- Technology Systems Administrator – hiring is in process.
- Technology Techs – waiting for HR to increase pay to 2 people in this position.
- We still await HR to increase the pay rate for replacing two interns who completed their internship with us.

Building:

- Elevator issues caused trouble with Elevator #1 for a few weeks. Waiting on parts.
- Capital Projects – reviewing plans with Purchasing.
- Audio/Visual upgrade – equipment ordered.
- HVAC – cooling tower maintenance is moving through Purchasing
- Carpet – the Youth Room is slated for carpet replacement.

March Program Report:

- 24 - Making It! – craft program from 1-4
- 25 - Manic Maker Monday – from 4-5
- **27 - Story of Sherwood Forest (Detroit) at 6:30**
- 30 - Crazy Cat People Party –from 2-3

April Program Report:

- Fairytale Fete Week – First week of April
 - 1st **PuppetART** Sleeping Beauty Puppet Show & Picnic at 6:45
 - 3rd Fairytale Princess Story Time at 6:30
 - 6th **PuppetART** Puppetry Workshop at 2:00

- Story times continue in April each Tues & Thurs at 10 am
- Scratch Coding Club: April 10, 17 & 24 at 7 pm in the 1st floor Lab
- Humanities group meets Thursdays at 1:00
- 2- Make the Most of Your Retirement & SS Funds at 1:00
- **2 & 3 – Everyone’s Reading Kiss Carlo – meet author Adriana Trigiani! – 7:00**
- **3 – 12th Annual SPELL BOWL at 7 pm**
- 3 - Urban Fiction Book Club: *If Beale St. Could Talk* by James Baldwin at 7:00
- 9 – Internet Basics class at 10:00
- 10 – Just Call Me Spaz: Growing up & Living with Epilepsy author David Standel – 6:30
- 10 – Tech Talk at 2:00
- 11 – Senior Movie “*Won’t You Be My Neighbor*” at 10:00
- 13 – Back Pain (DMC sponsored program) 10:00
- 15 – Teen Drop-In Volunteer Night at 7:00
- 16 – Starting a Business at 10:00
- 17 - Sleep Under Story time at 6:30
- **17 – JABAL with Madcat Midnight Blues Journey at 6:30**
- **18 – Ethics of Autonomous Vehicles (LTU sponsored program) at 6:00**
- 22 – MARVELous Superhero Night at 7:00
- 24 – Tech Talk at 7:00
- Children’s Book Week – Last week of April
 - 29 - Manic Maker Monday at 4:00
 - 29 – **PuppetART** Kolobok Puppet Show at 6:45
 - May 1 – Sleep Under Story Time at 6:30
 - May 5 – **PuppetART** Puppet Workshop at 2:00

VI. BUSINESS

- B. Director’s Compensation** – Ewick shared a request that he be paid retroactively for car allowance that was supposed to be part of the managerial pay package but that was not paid due to a mistake in how his pay was set up. **Motion to pay David Ewick for unpaid past car allowance made by Selman. Support by McCollough. Motion carried 5-0.**
- C. Rich Harwood Speaking Tour** – Nationally known civility speaker Harwood is touring the country. Speaking fees are \$10,000 plus expenses. Ewick asked if this is a program the library should seek to bring to Southfield. It would require seeking grants or sponsorships in addition to library funding. After discussion, Ewick was directed to see if any Southfield organizations such as the League of Women Voters, political clubs, colleges, etc. would be interested in partnering financially. It was felt that Mr. Harwood is not a known individual to our community so such a program might not be well attended. Ewick will research ways to generate an audience as well.
- D. Blue Cross Commercial** – BCBS has asked to shoot portions of a local ad in the Tower Lobby, meeting room hall and a study room on April 3 in exchange for a \$500 fee to library. **The board approved this by consensus.**
- Mayor Siver asked to speak and brought up his feeling that the Board should revisit the policy of not allowing “for profit” groups to rent the meeting room &

auditorium. He feels it would bring more people to the library and would generate additional revenue. There were concerns about the expectations of businesses who have in the past taken advantage of the staff. Ewick is to add this item to the April agenda for discussion of possibly changing things after the library expands hours in June. Mancini said she would share some information from Northville District Library's policies.

- E. Board photos – photos were taken of the board for the library webpage.
- F. Friends Corporate Sponsorship brochure – Ewick shared a brochure he has presented to the Friends group as a possible way to bring corporate sponsors to the funding table. He asked for board members thoughts to be shared next month. There was a positive feeling about the Friends moving in this direction.

IX. COMMENTS

Ms. Bettis shared a historical document found in the Treasurer's office that will be placed in the History Room. It is an official statement of bonds issued in 1976.

- X. ADJOURNMENT – **Motion to adjourn was made by McCollough at 8:40. Support Mancini. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted:

David Ewick, City Librarian