

**SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY September 11, 2019, 7 PM
SOUTHFIELD ROOM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER - **the meeting was called to order by President Rose at 7:01 pm.**

- II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - **McCullough moved to approve the agenda as presented at the meeting. Support by Mancini. Vote: 4-0 motion carried**

- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - **Selman moved to approve the Consent agenda as presented at the meeting. Support by Mancini. Vote: 4-0 motion carried**
 - A. August 2019 Minutes
 - B. August 2019 Treasurer's Report
 - C. Correspondence/Articles
 - a. SeeClickFix article
 - b. Detroit Public Library eliminates fines article
 - c. Friends of Michigan Libraries info
 - d. Fountain reception invitation

- IV. FORMAL REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – none requested

- V. REPORTS
 - A. Director's Report

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City:

- IT Merger update -
- Budget – we still do not have access to the full budget... this is a problem for tracking spending and planning for the next budget which should begin soon.
- SeeClickFix app – see article

Personnel:

- We have NOT been given approval to replace our Technology Coordinator or Technology Systems Administrator. I am working to find out how to get this approval. It is tied up due to internal city politics.
- Staffing the public service desks in the Adult Division has been very difficult. The hiring of 3 new persons is designed to alleviate the shortage. The hiring process will be expedited as much as possible.

Building:

- There will be a celebration for the return of the fountain on 9/17/19 from 4:30-6:30. All board members are encouraged to attend! We will no longer pay P&R for its upkeep, but the firm which installed it. This should provide better service.
- Current needs include new front doors, carpet in the youth room, and replacement of some of the chairs for both staff and the public. The comprehensive facilities needs assessment has begun.
- The AV project has been delayed but is still in process.

Program Highlights:

- Fall Family Book Fair – OCT 19 from 11-4
- Lt. Colonel Alexander Jefferson – Tuskegee Airman – NOV 11 at 6:30
- Detroit SOUP – SEPT 9 at 6:00 pm
- Sanilac Petroglyphs – OCT 9 at 6:45
- Meditation for Beginners – Oct 20 at 2
- Resume Workshop – SEPT 26 at 6:30
- Computer Classes – see “@ Your Library” for details
- Royal Oak Blues Band - SEPT 18 at 6:30

Friends Fundraiser Special Concert: Alvin Waddles NOV 20 at 6:30 Tix are \$12 per person

Pianist, singer, composer, director, Alvin Waddles began studying the piano at the age of eight in his hometown of Detroit. He continued his studies at the Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Michigan School of Music. After returning home to Detroit he immediately immersed himself in the rich musical culture of the city, benefiting from the diverse influences that would eventually shape his own unique style.

Mr. Waddles has worked in the Detroit and Ann Arbor Public Schools and currently serves as Musical Consultant/Musical Director for the Mount Vernon Public Schools, Performing Arts Dept in New York. He has also served as Music Ministries of several churches; among them, the historic New Bethel Baptist Church, Hartford Memorial Baptist and Hope United Methodist in Southfield, where he has served as the Director of Music since 1995.

VI. BUSINESS

- A. Gizmo in Youth Room – Youth Coordinator Charli Osborne has requested that the board review the possibility of having the Gizmo removed. The youth staff feels that it is dangerous due to kids wanting to climb it; and it is in poor repair.

After discussion, the Board decided to table the issue until next month, giving individual members an opportunity to take a look at the Gizmo and to review the pros & cons of removing such an integral part of the original youth room configuration.

- B. Fines discussion – Ewick requested the board discuss removing fines for late materials. He shared fresh info from an ALA study showing that lower income families are disproportionately harmed by such fines; that removing the fines does not cause an increase in later returns, etc. Ewick noted that currently fines bring in less than half of one percent of the library’s budget. Ewick also shared an article from the Detroit Free Press stating that the DPL will no longer charge fines for the same reasons he outlined. He believes that eliminating fines would result in good PR for the library, increased use by low income families and increased circulation by the public in general.
There would still be fines for damaged items; and charges for lost items. (ALA report FAQ attached).

There was no consensus on the issue but concerns if no penalty is attached to holding onto library property for long periods of time. Ewick was tasked with exploring the alternative of automatically renewing items that have no holds placed on them as a partial step in this direction, with more discussion to come.

- C. Long Range Plan update – Ewick shared that the LRP will begin in the spring.

D. Discovery Zone – The Youth Division has requested \$2,200 from the Edith Phillips Trust to expand the extremely successful Discovery Zone for younger children. (see attached description). The board was thrilled to hear of the success of the new Zone!

Selman moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$3,000 from the Phillips Trust for the project. Support by Mancini. Vote: 4-0 motion carried

- E. 2020 Library Board Meeting calendar – Ewick distributed a first draft of the 2020 meeting calendar and asked board members to check their individual calendars to see if the dates work for them before it is adopted and published. Board members reviewed their calendars and approved the calendar by consensus with one change: moving the April Board meeting to 4/1/20 to avoid conflict with Passover.
- F. Management Compensation system – Ewick shared information given to him by the City about a new system of compensation for Department Heads. Board members reviewed the info and voiced serious concerns that the compensation for the City Librarian is not where it should be in comparison to other City Department heads. Ewick was told to discuss the situation with the proper city officials.

IX. COMMENTS – no further comments were noted.

X. ADJOURNMENT **McCollough moved to adjourn at 8:14. Support by Selman. Vote: 4-0 motion carried.**

Next Southfield Public Library Board meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2019