

**SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY August 14, 2019, 7 PM  
SOUTHFIELD ROOM**

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Present: Euni Rose, Bruce Collins, Carole McCollough, Allyson Bettis, Dave Ewick

- I. CALL TO ORDER – the meeting called to order by President Rose at 7:07 pm.
- II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - **McCollough moved to approve the agenda as presented at the meeting. Support by Collins. Vote: 3-0 carried**
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - **McCollough moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Support by Collins. Vote: 3-0 carried.**
  - A. May 2019 Minutes
  - B. July 2019 Treasurer’s Report
  - C. External fund balances
  - D. Correspondence/Articles
- IV. FORMAL REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – none received
- V. REPORTS
  - A. Director’s Report

Programs:

**Summer Reading Program – A Universe of Stories –**

- **Adult:** Over 100 adults participated in the program and were very pleased with the prizes as well as the programming tied to it.
- **Teen/Youth:** This years’ summer reading program was out of this world! Nearly 500 children and teens registered to track their reading, win free books and other awesome prizes. Throughout the summer youth librarians hosted a variety of programs, including crafts, family story times, an escape room, indoor and outdoor movies and even a breakdancing and parkour class. This summer also saw the introduction of a “tummy time” a weekly story time for our newest patrons (zero to six months).

**Discovery Area** – This has been an unbridled success. Mechelle Bernard spearheaded the project and it has been busy from day one. A great sign of the success has been that parents are interacting with their children; and that children of all ethnic groups are playing together cooperatively. We’ve had Orthodox Jewish kids, Muslim kids, African American kids and Caucasian kids all playing together and learning to be with each other. It’s kind of amazing to see parents sitting in front of the computers but facing away from the computers to watch & interact with the children! We plan to expand this area as we get funding.

**Fountain** – due to the diligence of Mayor Siver, we were able to have a functioning fountain (with whale) for the Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival. While not all the plants were installed, the water was flowing, the concrete walks were poured, and there was sod in place. The final step

will be to place the bushes/plants along the walkway. (Also: the patio area was pruned and cleaned for the first time this year because of the Mayor's prompting!)

### **Personnel:**

- We have NOT been given approval to replace our Technology Coordinator & are working to find out how to get this approval. It is tied up due to internal city politics.
- Technology Systems Administrator – hiring is in process.
- Received approval to hire interns as needed but await approval to increase pay rates.
- Received approval to hire THREE Librarian positions. This is critical as we had a librarian resign to work at another library. The adult division is very happy this was approved.

### **Building:**

- 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 AV project will be completed next month.

## VI. BUSINESS

- City/Library IT division merger** – Ewick briefed board members that the City has proposed merging library IT with the City IT Dept. There is a feeling that it would be a cost savings action. Ewick (and library IT personnel) have reviewed the situation and feel that there is little to be gained from such a move financially but that the library would lose the ability to qualify for several educational discounts we currently receive. Also there would be less autonomy, and the history of dealing with City Departments when they control library functions has been disastrous. This situation has become an issue in that hiring of IT personnel and reclassification of IT personnel is tied to the issue. Until the situation is resolved, we are unable to get approval to move on these Human Resources issues. There was discussion of options.
- Meeting Room policy** – Ewick requested that the policy currently in place remain “as is” for the time being. With the additional hours we have found that staff is exceptionally busy and does not have time to work with additional uses of the rooms.
- Lathrup Village millage rate** – Ewick is still working with LV personnel to increase the profile of SPL among LV residents and to generate positive feelings toward the library in preparation to approach the community with a millage increase proposal. This is the only way LV will be able to increase their financial commitment to SPL.

IX. COMMENTS – there were no comments from board members.

X. ADJOURNMENT – McCollough moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Support by Collins. Vote: 3-0 carried

Next Southfield Public Library Board meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2019

*Libraries are in the ignorance destruction business.*