

La Porte County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM CDT
904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

Attendance

Present:

Members: Corey Campbell, Karen Ellison, Amy Jackson, Dara Jeffries

Attorney: Anthony Novak

Staff: Fonda Owens, Ann Shaffer

Absent:

Members: Nicole Florek, Rhonda Spence

Members: Vacancy—County Commissioners Appointment

I. Call to Order

President Corey Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

II. Public Forum

President Corey Campbell called for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of March 16, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting

B. Financial Report

C. Approval and Payment of Claims – APV Batch April 20, 2023

Motion:

A motion was made by Amy Jackson and seconded by Dara Jeffries to approve the consent agenda. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

IV. Reports

A. Managers

Toni Kester Bulger, Outreach Services Manager, modeled and spoke about the Library's logo wear for staff. She also presented the Board members with the Library's Summer Reading t-shirts that tie-in with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Anna Gromer, Public Services Assistant Manager, introduced herself to the board.

Holly Trott, Access and Collections Services Manager, announced that the Deweyless project will be starting and the Picture Book collection will be the first.

Pam Okosun, Community Learning Manager/Interim Public Services Manager, was unable to attend the meeting, Director Owens fill-in by reporting on the statics for the Library's databases. Content DM which has access to local history, digital yearbooks and library history had 31,728 uses for the first quarter of 2023. This digital section will continue to grow and with new requirement needs for newspapers and board minutes, research into scanning equipment has begun. The cost of this equipment could be up to \$130,000. Director Owens will keep the board posted.

B. Director

Director, Fonda Owens, reported that work on the Windows is still be done and hoping to be complete within the next week or so.

Along with the retirement of Cindy Lane at the end of March, Mary Hedge retired on April 14th and Sandy Goetz-Bell will be retiring on April 28th, reported Ms. Owens. Over 100 individuals attended Mary's retirement celebration.

Director Owens also reported that a switch to a new event/calendar software will be happening soon. This new software will have more functions and better filters.

She has also been visiting branch locations and reviewing furniture and condition of outdoor spaces. New colorful equipment will be installed at Fish Lake Branch to replaced the deteriorated wood that was in the space.

Director Owens gave a legislative update on SB12, which has seemed to stall but wording from this bill is anticipated to be added to another bill before the close of the session.

Director Owens reported that the Library has been contacted to attend more community events. The county fair and 4th of July parade to mention a few. The hiring of six summer interns will help with staffing of these events.

C. Legal Counsel

Attorney Anthony Novak had no items to report at this time.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Window Project

Director Owens reported that the Maple Avenue entryways are rotted on both doors. Water and terminate (old) damage on both the inside and outside of the entryways was found. The entryways were constructed in the 1950's. Repair of this is not part of the scope of work. Larson Danielson Construction was able to provide old blue print drawings of the entryways.

A motion was made by Karen Ellison and seconded by Amy Jackson to explore a construction inspection of the Maple Avenue entryways with Larson Danielson Construction Company. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

VI. New Business

A. Recommendation to Reclassify Positions

A motion was made by Karen Ellison and seconded by Dara Jeffries to reclassify the Accounting Professional and HR Professional positions from Professional I to Professional II. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Recommendation to add a Position – IT Professional

A motion was made by Amy Jackson and seconded by Dara Jeffries to approve the creation of a new IT Professional position. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

C. Recommendation to Increase Open Hours at the LPCPL Exchange

Director Fonda Owens presented a recommendation based on usage, observations, input from community and staff to increase the open hours at the LPCPL Exchange. A motion was made by Karen Ellison and seconded by Dara Jeffries to increase the open hours at the LPCPL Exchange as presented. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

VII. Questions or Comments from the Public

President Corey Campbell called for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

VIII. Questions or Comments from the Board

President Corey Campbell called for questions or comments from the Board. Karen Ellison spoke about the La Porte High School Robotics Team completing at Worlds competition in Texas. Maybe have the students come talk about their experiences.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Karen Ellison and seconded by Amy Jackson to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. The vote was taken and the motion carried.