

**La Porte County Public Library
Board of Trustees Planning Session
Minutes May 24, 2018**

The Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library held a planning session meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at the Main Library.

Present: Scott Siefker, President
 Dava Buell, Vice-President
 Karen Ellison, Secretary
 Marie Gilliland
 James Dermody
 Sylvia Smith

Absent: Gregg Fuhlenbrock
Also in attendance: Fonda Owens, Director

CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Siefker called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

Director Owens introduced Branch and Outreach Services Librarian Greg Coulter, and Technology Librarian Pam Okosun, who were attending the planning meeting for the first time.

President Siefker called for questions or comments from the public.

Maggi Spartz, President of the Unity Foundation of La Porte County, congratulated the board and staff for the work the Library is doing in the community. She spoke in favor of a mobile classroom as meeting a critical need in the community for a resource that can impact so many students in the county. She sees how having a mobile classroom can build a pipeline for this community, starting with manufacturing and extending to health care, etc.

Tara Grinnell, Human Resources Director with Arconic, also spoke in support of a mobile classroom platform, especially with a focus on science and technology, which directly ties to the concepts of manufacturing.

Linda Wiltfong, Superintendent of South Central School Corporation, expressed her appreciation to the Library Board and staff for its community focus and to identify that all students are a part of this community. She, along with Ms. Spartz and Ms. Grinnell, serve on the Skill-Up group and many others in that group have expressed a desire to have a mobile classroom.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Planning

President Siefker called on Ms. Owens to explain the spreadsheets she prepared that identified available cash verses planned expenses for the year. Ms. Owens identified that monies from Library Operating Fund are available to fund a renovation of the building located at 807 Indiana Avenue by requesting an additional appropriation, and gift monies in the Unity Foundation account are available to fund the purchase of a mobile library and science bus.

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Ms. Owens explained that the next step would be for the board to officially move forward with the additional appropriation process which is on the agenda for consideration at the regular meeting following the conclusion of the planning session. Additionally, she is gathering more information on how best to manage donations and memorials especially with community foundations such as Unity Foundation.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Scott Siefker called for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

President Scott Siefker called for comments from the board. Members of the board complimented Ms. Owens on her preparation of the spreadsheet which provided a good explanation of the financial standing for the Library.

President Siefker adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM