

LA PORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES JULY 26, 2018

The Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library met on Thursday, July 26th, 2018 at the Main Library.

PRESENT

Karen Ellison-Board Secretary
Marie Gilliland
James Dermody
Gregg Fuhlenbrock

ABSENT

Scott Siefker-President
Dava Buell-Vice-President
Sylvia Smith

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Fonda Owens, Director
Cindy Lane, Treasurer
Mark Lienhoop, Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Ellison called the meeting to order at 6:32

PUBLIC FORUM

Karen Ellison called for questions/comments from the public. There were none.

PRESENTATION

Monicah Fratena presented to the Board the success of the Teen Community Conversations. The balance of the grant funds from the Harwood Institute were used to hold inspired group teen meetings. Monicah prepared a visual presentation to show the engagement of the youth in the four sessions that were conducted from April thru May. Before the start of the Teen Community Conversations, the teens were asked to follow three specific rules:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Honest (Everyone is welcome to give their opinion)
3. Answer Questions (Which were rewarded with food)

There were four sessions. Session one centered on the question, "What do you like or dislike at the Library?". The most common answers were the Teen Labs, Wi-Fi, and the Anime Club.

Session two focused on social media interaction. "What social media sites do you use?"
The group advised that their social media interests are Snapchat, Instagram, and YouTube videos.

Session three centered on activities they would like to participate in at the library. They said they have enjoyed crafts and would like more programs with a low key and low tech approach included in the maker STEAM classes.

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Session Four was centered on what the class knew about library collections. It was discovered that teens are still reading print books. They were not as aware of the e-Resources offered by the library so they were shown how to use their digital devices to check out e-materials to read or listen to.

CONSENT AGENDA

James Dermody moved, and Marie Gilliland seconded, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Minutes of the June 28th Board of Trustees Meeting.

Managers Reports

Financial Report

Approval and Payment of Claims per APV batch for July 26, 2018.

The vote was taken and the motion was carried.

REPORTS

Department Report's

Susan Bannwart reported on the success of the Summer Feeding Program. Although all locations were a success, Kingsford Heights appeared to have the most benefit. The STEAM camps were also a success with donations from American Licorice and Centier Bank to fund the purchase of the equipment and supplies needed for the camps.

Director's Report

Director Owens distributed the packet given to the county council. The packet consisted of statistics, calculations, summer events, brochure of services and documents from the Department of Local and Government Finance. Library financial consultant, Lisa Huntington of Umbaugh, was present at this county council meeting. The vote to approve the first county council meeting was successful with a 6:1 vote. The second ordinance meeting will be held on August 27th, 2018 at 6:30pm.

The budget process is underway. The growth quotient is 3.4%. The budget proposal for 2019 will be presented at the August Board meeting. One of the goals for the 2019 budget is to better refine it to work with changes in spending related to the fully operational new buildings.

Ms. Owens met with Matt Presley, the College and Career Readiness Coordinator of La Porte High School. The discussion focus was on implementing an internship program with the high school students. There are also discussions of possibly an internship program that will provide credits. These ideas must be approved by the Department of Education before becoming active programming.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark Lienhoop reported that Mark Phillips drew up a letter for the treasurer of the State Board of Accounts, and is working on the responsible bidder issue and how the resolution might look and what things need to be consider.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Updates on bids for Vehicle Purchases

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The consultant was contacted regarding the vehicle bids and the issues within the bid specifications. He is working with Susan Bannwart to get them resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

NILBA Meeting

Board members are invited to the Northern Indiana Library Board Association (NILBA) meeting. This will take place at Fair Oak Farms on August 29th.

Kingsford Heights Extended Hours

Director Owens requested extended hours for the Kingsford Heights location. The request is in direct relation to the summer feeding schedule at the school. This request will extend the hours through the first week of school. Marie Gilliland motioned and James Dermody seconded.

The vote was taken and the motion carried.

Sidewalk for Hanna Branch

The county received a grant that is allowing them to build a sidewalk in the Hanna community. The sidewalk will extend to the outer edge of the Library property in Hanna. The County Planner contacted the Library to find out if the Library would be interested in extending the sidewalk to the front door of the library. Ms. Owens presented a recommendation to do so, pointing out that the addition of sidewalk will increase the safety of those walking to the library. The Library has existing funds available to pay for the installation. Gregg Fuhlenbrock motioned and Marie Gilliland seconded to approve the recommendation.

The vote was taken and the motion carried.

2019 Budget Process and Timeline

The 2019 budget draft will be ready for the next Board meeting. There are notices that must be submitted for the public hearing. The meeting will be held on September 27th, 2018. Adoption will be October 25th, 2018. Fonda expressed the importance of knowing what Board members will not be able to attend ahead of time for the August 23rd, September 27th & October 25th key meetings.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Karen Ellison called for questions/comments from the public. There were none.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Karen Ellison called for questions/comments from the Board.

Gregg Fuhlenbrock commented on the Volunteerism and Citizenship of the Library. He is happy to see the Library reaching out to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Marie Gilliland motioned, James Dermody seconded.

The vote was taken and the motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:23 PM.