

LA PORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES FEBRUARY 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President Karen Ellison called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present

Karen Ellison – President
Michelle Shirk – Vice-President
Marie Gilliland
Dave Decker
Rhonda Spence

Absent

Corey Campbell – Secretary
Dara Jeffries

Also in Attendance

Fonda Owens – Director
Anthony Novak - Legal Counsel
Cindy Lane – Treasurer

PUBLIC FORUM

President Ellison called for questions or comments from the public. Kerstin Vossberg, Community Learning Librarian, introduced herself to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Ellison called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:
Minutes of the January 20, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of the January 20, 2022 Board of Finance Meeting
Manager Reports
Financial Report
Approval and Payment of Claims ---per APV Batch February 17, 2022

Marie Gilliland moved and Michelle Shirk seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

REPORTS

Director

Director Owens gave updates on construction/improvement projects. A pre-project meeting for the WIFI Garden and Maintenance Building is scheduled for February 23rd. Parking Lot light poles have been installed and when the weather warms up, concrete will be poured.

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Ms. Owens informed the Board that due to a better understanding how the area under the Indiana stairs was constructed, a change order will be submitted for that work, which will make for a better design and improve the life of the steps.

Chris Alber, Principal of La Porte High School, toured the Exchange. He was very impressed with the space, and saw the potential for both students and teachers to use this space. Director Owens also gave a tour of the Exchange to Tommy Viere, who has worked with the City in developing the Maple Street apartments. Collaboration topics were discussed, including a possible sculpture project.

Ms. Owens reported that the Library has been selected as part of the OF/BY/FOR All network. Staff members who are part of this network will work on four goals; to deepen community impact, to advance goals around diversity, equity, and inclusion, to provide professional development, and to develop new, community-centered ways of working.

Ms. Owens presented updates to proposed legislation bills SB17 and HB1134. Director Owens was able to speak with both Senator Mike Bohacek and Representative Jim Pressel regarding the impact these bills would have on libraries.

Ms. Owens updated the board on the ongoing La Porte County audit from the State Board of Accounts (SBOA). Staff met with the SBOA auditors to share information regarding the Library's capital asset recording process through 2019. She also reported that with the Library being a Component Unit of the County government. This will have an impact on how the library is audited by the SBOA. Our current understanding is that audits will be done annually, with the library's audit being done in a compliance format and the financial part of the audit will be included with the County's audit process.

Legal Counsel

Attorney Anthony Novak reported that he had no updates to report at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution in Honor of Scott Siefker

Dave Decker moved and Rhonda Spence seconded to adopt a resolution in honor of Scott Siefker's tenure on the Board of Trustees. The resolution was then read by Michelle Shirk as follows:

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**La Porte County Public Library
Board of Trustees
Resolution
In Honor of Scott Siefker**

WHEREAS, Scott Siefker served with distinction on the Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library from February 2011 to December 2021; and

WHEREAS, Scott Siefker was elected by his colleagues on the Board of Trustees as Vice-President (2012 and 2015 - 2016); President (2013 – 2015 and 2018 - 2019); chaired the Budget Committee (2012); and served as a member of the Master Planning Committee (2014); and

WHEREAS, La Porte County Public Library has been fortunate to have Scott Siefker as a dedicated Board member who consistently demonstrated his belief in the value and importance of the Library to the La Porte Community; and

WHEREAS, Scott Siefker will be greatly missed by his colleagues on the Board of Trustees and by the many library community members who benefited from his efforts on behalf of the Library;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees does hereby recognize with great admiration and appreciation, the contributions and record of service of Scott Siefker to the Library, and the citizens of La Porte County.

Presented to the Board of Trustees of La Porte County Public Library, read in full, and adopted this 22nd day of February, 2022.

The vote was taken and the motion carried.

Resolution for Non-Resident Fee 2022

Dave Decker moved and Michelle Shirk seconded to approve the Resolution for Nonresident Fee as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR NONRESIDENT FEE

La Porte County Public Library ("Library")

WHEREAS, IC 36-12-2-25(c) requires that an individual nonresident fee be established for a local library card; and

WHEREAS, the minimum fee that the board may set under the statute is the greater of the following: (1) The library district's operating fund expenditure per capita in the most recent year for which that information is available in the Indiana state library's annual "Statistics of Indiana Libraries" or (2) Twenty-five dollars (\$25).

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the nonresident fee is hereby set at \$80.00 for an individual nonresident card; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this fee will remain in effect until such time that the library board passes a new nonresident fee resolution.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the La Porte County Public Library at its regular meeting held on the 22nd day of February, 2022 at which meeting a quorum was present.

The vote was taken and the motion carried.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Karen Ellison thanked the library staff for their help in updating the Story Walk at Kesling Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Dave Decker moved and Marie Gilliland seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. The vote was taken and the motion carried.