

MEETING MINUTES OF THE DIXON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday July 11, 2022

In attendance: Director Antony Deter, Rachel Cocar, Terry Dunphy, Marilyn Jackson, Tracey Lawton, Carol Linkowski, Kevin Marx, and Connor Self

Absent: Marcella Kitson

Meeting Location: Loveland Community Building

President Lawton called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. She amended the agenda to place the President's Report prior to the Citizen's Comment. She clarified that Marilyn Jackson had been slated to go off the board, but because no one has been appointed to replace her, she is still on the board. President Lawton also clarified board policy that states that it is the director's discretion to remove items from circulation. The board serves as a basic policy making body. Per board policy, the board will not interfere with the director and staff choice of books to enter the collection. President Lawton clarified that the board does not have the ability to remove items for circulation as policy is written. President Lawton deferred to Director Deter to explain the procedure of adding items to the collection. Director Deter stated that decisions about the library's collection are based on copious amounts of research, recommendations from other libraries, colleagues, research, etc. He also considers what he believes will be of interest to the community. There are broad ranges of material that are purchased each month. The library has approximately 73,000 items in the collection currently. In the seven years 40,000 items have been purchased to bring the library collection up to date. There is also daily going through of materials to decide what is no longer appropriate. Items are also removed due to damage or returned from patrons in bad condition.

President Lawton also reviewed the public comment/correspondence portion of the board manual. She clarified that any comments made during public comment would not be re-read if shared in correspondence for the interest of time. Director Deter also clarified that after consulting with the IL attorney general in regards to official board minutes, he was alerted to statute which states minutes can contain summaries of public comment and that letters or correspondence do not need to be entered into the minutes.

Citizens Present: Brett Nicklaus, Kyle Ferrebee, Daxxon Krzykowski, Victoria Bowers, Jessica Ausman, Shanda Horst, Sarah Schlegel, Kelly Flanagan, Laura Gumbiner, Anne Hermes, Kristine Schauff, Greg Smith, Brad Fritts, Damaris Martinez, Don Beasley, John Lira, Bob Bayalati, Dennis Considine, Chet Klapprodt. These citizens all made public comments regarding the books that had been challenged.

Citizens' Comments: The following letters were read as submitted.

A letter was submitted by Corina Maria Teofilo Mattson in support of retaining the books in question in the library collection.

A letter was submitted by David Swegle in regard to a social media post.

A letter was submitted by Janice McCoy in support of not banning books from the library.

A letter was submitted by Emily in support of the work of the library and its employees.

A profane and threatening letter was submitted by Edward Aros and remanded to law enforcement.

A letter was submitted by Gabriella McKanna in support of retaining the books in question.

A letter was submitted by Jackie Heather in support of retaining the materials in question.

A letter was submitted by Darci Francis in support of the library having a diverse collection.

Trustees' Comments: Marilyn asked if Director Deter could look at moving the book to the adult section in the meantime as decisions are being made. Kevin Marx spoke about wanting to make the best decision, taking into account board policy and given time to review the materials in question.

Approval of the Minutes: It was noted that June's minutes contained an incomplete statement under Trustee's Comment. The wording should state, "Marilyn Jackson stated that she had been grateful to serve on the board and that it was a pleasure working with board members." Terry Dunphy made a motion to approve the June 13, 2022, minutes as corrected. Marilyn Jackson seconded the motion.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

Carol Linkowski: abstain

Kevin Marx: abstain

Connor Self: abstain

The motion was carried.

President's Report: President Lawton moved her report to the beginning of the meeting to address concerns relating to the books, "Gender Queer" and "Patience & Esther," as well as clarify public comment policy.

Director's Report: Director Deter had one item to add to his report. He had mentioned he hadn't heard anything back about state grants he applied for. Director Deter shared that at 3:30pm he had heard from Senator Durbin's office to state that the library has moved forward in the grant process.

Treasurer's Report: Approval of Trust Fund Bills and Expenditures. Kevin Marx made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Connor Self seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

Carol Linkowski: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion was carried.

Invoices and Expenditures: Marilyn Jackson made a motion to ratify the invoices and expenditures and Kevin Marx seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

Carol Linkowski: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion carried.

Director Deter spoke about the circulation report and spoke about the uptick in circulation due in large part to the Summer Reading Program.

Committee Reports:

- ❖ **Finance and Budget:** none
- ❖ **Building and Grounds:** none
- ❖ **Personnel and Salary:** none
- ❖ **By-laws, Policies, and Procedures:** none
- ❖ **Technology and Technology Resources:** none

Regular Calendar Business: Consider and approve a motion to approve the revised Technology Plan for 2022-2023. Director Deter explained that as of a year ago it was decided that the library would have a technology plan and be updated accordingly. The plan details that certain equipment was replaced and renewed, etc. The plan also noted which materials were paid for with state grants. Director Deter explained that in the technology plan language addressing patron training was inserted.

Carol Linkowski made a motion and Terry Dunphy seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

Carol Linkowski: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion was carried.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Consider and approve a motion to accept the proposal from Willett Hoffman.

Director Deter indicated that the proposal was the next step in making use of the basement space. This proposal is phase one of the proposal. Phase one is what we would need to do to be “shovel ready.” If we were to receive the grant, they would want to know how close we are to start the process. Carol Linkowski clarified that this is the project that the grant from Senator Durbin would be used for. Kevin Marx clarified that the money within the grant from the government would only cover a part of the cost. Director Deter explained that the grants would cover about 2/3 of the cost and then the board would draw upon library reserves to cover the rest. Approving the proposal doesn’t obligate the library to the architecture firm until money is available. Kevin Marx made a motion and Connor Self seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

Carol Linkowski: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion was carried.

Marilyn Jackson sought clarification about whether the books in question could be relocated to the adult collection. Director Deter clarified that there is an adult graphic novel collection where “Patience and Esther” is already located. The book “Gender Queer” is geared toward young adults and currently is in that section, but there has been precedence that books have been moved from intended section to the adults section due to potential adult content. Kevin Marx asked if the books in question were available to the general public. Director Deter stated that the books had been withheld from circulation since the initial concerns were made. Kevin stated that it is his desire to have more time to consider the issue. Marilyn stated that LGBTQ literature has a protected status. Also recommended seeking legal counsel to understand that we are protected from being sued due to the protected status of the groups involved in the literature in question. President Lawton clarified that board policy is continually updated and amended to align with Library Code. She let the public know that we will be continuing with our meeting and asked people to leave quietly so that the meeting can continue.

Other Business: None.

At 7:45pm Marilyn Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Connor Self. At 7:45pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Cocar, secretary