

## MEETING MINUTES OF THE DIXON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Monday October 10, 2022**

**In attendance:** Director Antony Deter, Rachel Cocar, Terry Dunphy, Piper Grazulis, Marcella Kitson, Kevin Marx, and Connor Self

**Absent:** Marilyn Jackson, Tracey Lawton, Carol Linkowski

**Meeting Location:** TAD Room, Lower-Level Dixon Public Library

Vice President Marx called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Citizen's Present:** Terri Swegle, Angie Shippert, Damaris Martinez, Jill Porter, Tom Kitson

**Citizen's Comment:** The following letters were read as submitted.

Victoria Bowers submitted a letter in support of the work of the library.

**Trustee's Comment:** None

**Approval of the Minutes:** Connor Self made a motion to approve the September 12, 2022, minutes as amended to reflect the correct attendance. Piper Grazulis seconded the motion.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Piper Grazulis: aye

Marcella Kiston: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: abstain

The motion was carried.

**President's Report:** None.

**Director's Report:** Director Deter noted there was nothing additional to add to his written report except for an update on the sidewalk at the back of the building. The solution is to remove the stones and replace with brand new in the next few weeks. The back door will need to be closed for 48-72 hours in order for the concrete to cure. Director Deter will let the public know of the back door closure and offer curbside service to any patron who may need to utilize the elevator.

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

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Piper Grazulis: aye

Marcella Kiston: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion was carried.

**Invoices and Expenditures:** Piper Grazulis made a motion to ratify the invoices and expenditures and Marcella Kitson seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Piper Grazulis: aye

Marcella Kiston: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

- ❖ **Finance and Budget:** none
- ❖ **Building and Grounds:** none
- ❖ **Personnel and Salary:** none
- ❖ **By-laws, Policies, and Procedures:** Committee met and their report will come later in the agenda.
- ❖ **Technology and Technology Resources:** none

**Regular Calendar Business:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

Consider and approve new subsections L and M for Section 6 of the combined policy manual: Collection Management and Use regarding the display of library materials.

Director Deter researched what other libraries include in their display policy. Working with the By-Laws, Policies and Procedures committee, they came up with the wording for the policy change. Piper Grazulis made a motion to approve the language, Terry Dunphy seconded the motion.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Piper Grazulis: aye

Marcella Kiston: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion was carried.

**New Business:** Consider and approve new Section 29 of the combined policy manual: Financial Purchasing and authority to spend.

Director Deter clarified that the board has already been following this policy. Connor Self made a motion to approve the policy on expenditures as presented. Terry Dunphy seconded the motion.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Piper Grazulis: aye

Marcella Kitson: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion carried.

Consider and approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Northbrook Public Library and Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) for the provision of virtual programs through "Illinois Libraries Present".

Director Deter explained this comes from a desire to have more resilient library programming. As a result of the pandemic, libraries struggled to provide programs in ways that were meaningful and safe. This kind of programming can be helpful to patrons regardless of the situation. With libraries working together, the buying power is significant. Marcella Kitson made a motion to approve the IGA with Northbrook Public Library. Connor Self seconded the motion.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Piper Grazulis: aye

Marcella Kiston: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion was carried.

Consider and approve closure of the library for staff training.

Director Deter explained that the board has made a lot of changes to library policy, and he would like to make library staff aware and up to date on new policies. He is trying to figure out a schedule that would accommodate the largest number of staff possible. He was thinking of a Thursday afternoon because

the library closes at 5pm. He thought the hours might shift that day from 9am-1pm and then close for the day. Piper Grazulis made a motion to approve, and Marcella Kitson seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Piper Grazulis: aye

Marcella Kiston: aye

Kevin Marx: aye

Connor Self: aye

The motion was carried.

Consider the request to override the Director's decision to not remove Gender Queer and Patience and Esther from circulation in the library.

Kevin Marx explained that a request had been made by a patron to override Director Deter's decision to retain the books in the collection. Director Deter reviewed the actions of the past involving the books in question. He stated that the library had received 19 requests for reconsideration on both books. Director Deter responded to each request explaining that "Patience and Esther" had always been in the adult's section, never included in any display. "Gender Queer" had been moved from the young adult collection into the adult collection. It had never been displayed in the children's department, had only been on display in the adult section. It has been nominated for awards but because of the depiction of two images it has been moved to the adult section. To date there has been only one request for removal. Director Deter has kept the names of individuals private and not shared them to protect confidentiality for those making the requests. The original request was to have the books removed because of their unsuitability. Discussion was had among board members. Piper Grazulis shared that she has heard from many members of the public. She stated that there are many more people with the view point that the books should be removed. She stated that the town is still considered a conservative town and that other peoples' viewpoints should be represented especially as taxpayers have the say. Connor suggested that we are all citizens and taxpayers and have relationships with those in the community including children, stating that he doesn't believe the members of the board would want to expose children to explicit material. He also stated that he believes that parents should have the authority to judge for their own children what they read or are exposed to. Piper stated that we must answer to community standards in a traditionally conservative town. When books are brought up, we do have to deal with them as a board. Director Deter explained that he is working on a way to identify graphic novels with explicit images more easily with labels so parents can be aware of the content. Piper asked if there is a "litmus test" to see if we are reflecting the community's standards. Director Deter stated that community standards are not monolithic. Director Deter clarified that these choices do not support any agenda. Kevin Marx stated that he read the books because they have come before the board but might not have otherwise. As a library we are required to offer a diverse collection of books. Over 100,000 books are published every year and only 2,000 are purchased. Kevin stated he felt it made sense to move the book to the adult section. Kevin shared appreciation of Antony's work through this all and stated he is not inclined to take any other action regarding the books. He did state he appreciates the

process and values the ability to have a formalized process to review materials in the collection. Connor shared that he appreciates the effort of library staff to label and educate the public so they can make the proper decisions for their own children. The decision to maintain the books in the collection stands.

**Other Business:** None.

At 6:51pm Connor Self made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Marcella Kitson. At 6:51pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Cocar, secretary