

Weston Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
January 8, 2024 at the Grand Rapids Branch of the Weston Public Library

CALL TO ORDER

Dan Sheperd, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Sheperd, present; Carson, present; Patel, present; Sommerfeld, present, Archambo, present and Gamby, present.

Staff members present: Shelen Stevens and Deb Gross.

BOARD ACTION TO HIRE FISCAL OFFICER UNTIL 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Archambo made a motion, second by Patel to hire Deb Gross as the Fiscal Officer until the 2025 Organizational Meeting. Roll Call: Sommerfeld, aye; Patel, aye; Sheperd, aye; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, aye. Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE TO FISCAL OFFICER

Laura Carson, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Office to Fiscal Officer Deb Gross.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Archambo made a motion, second by Sheperd, to approve the November 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes with no additions or corrections. Roll Call: Sommerfeld, aye; Patel, aye; Sheperd, aye; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, aye. Motion carried.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE OFFICERS

Patel made a Motion, second by Archambo to nominate Dan Sheperd as President of the Library Board of Trustees. Roll Call: Sommerfeld, aye; Patel, aye; Sheperd, abstain; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, aye. Motion carried.

Archambo made a Motion, second by Shepard to nominate Jigar Patel as Vice President of the Library Board of Trustees. Roll call: Sommerfeld, aye; Patel, abstain; Sheperd, aye; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, aye. Motion carried.

Archambo made a Motion, second by Sheperd to nominate Laura Carson as Secretary of the Library Board of Trustees. Roll call: Sommerfeld, aye; Patel, aye; Sheperd, aye; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, abstain. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Meyerholtz commented that she has heard rumor in the community that she was fired from her position at the Library. She presented documents to show she was not fired but that she resigned her position.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Board Members indicated they had reviewed the financials and there were no additions or corrections. Fiscal Officer Gross stated that the final reconciliation of for the 2023 year was not available but that she expected no changes. A Motion to Approve the Financial reports as submitted was made by Archambo; second by Patel. Roll call: Sommerfeld, aye; Carson, aye; Patel, aye; Sheperd, aye. Archambo aye; Gamby, aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Delivery of new shelving at the Grand Rapids Branch is expected at the end of February to the beginning of March. Payment for the shelves will be due at the time of delivery. It is expected to increase the Grand Rapids capacity by 40%. There is no anticipated closure of the library while the new shelves are installed. As for filling the shelves, some of it will be a separation of the current collection. Assistant Director Froman will be doing a complete weeding of the Grand Rapids collection. The library may stock the shelves with "things" the public can check out, such as pickleball equipment or other items that might not be in the home.

A discussion was held regarding the changes to the Circulation Policy. The changes discussed in the Financial Committee meeting were discussed. A "clean" copy of the policy will be available for review at the next meeting. A vote will be taken at that time.

The current vacancy on the Board of Trustees was discussed. Fritz Wolfram was nominated and his nomination was forwarded to the Otsego Board of Education for approval. They failed to take action and he resigned his position with the Board. Since the Board previously discussed the candidates who had applied, Sheperd stated the Board should nominate their second choice for the open position. A Motion was made by Archambo and Second by Gamby to nominate Bonnie Armitage to the open position. Roll call: Sommerfeld, abstain; Patel, aye; Sheperd, aye; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion of the meeting schedule for 2024 was held. The schedule presented by the Director included two Tuesday dates, October 15 and November 12 due to a holiday falling on Monday. The Board discussed keeping those dates on Monday. The April meeting falls on the day of the solar eclipse and the Director suggested moving that meeting to the 3rd Monday of the month. Further discussion was held regarding meetings being held in Grand Rapids. The Director will present an updated schedule at the next meeting. In the meantime, Archambo made a motion, second by Patel to hold the next meeting on February 12, 2024 at the Grand Rapids Branch of the Weston Public Library. Roll call: Sommerfeld, aye; Patel, aye; Sheperd, aye; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, aye. Motion carried.

The Director informed the Board that wallpaper installed by Jack Myers at the time of the opening of the Grand Rapids building had begun to peel. Mr. Myers had seen the peeling and informed the Director that he would come back and fix the wallpaper at no cost to the library. A Motion to accept the gift of wallpaper repair was made by Archambo, second by Sheperd. Roll call: Sommerfeld, aye; Patel, aye; Sheperd, aye; Gamby aye; Archambo, aye; Carson, aye. Motion carried.

The Director informed the Board that there is a spot on the carpet at the Grand Rapids Branch keeps getting wet. It has been professionally cleaned and stayed dry for awhile. It has been wet again.

The Director has K&K coming to look at the problem and will have more information at the next meeting.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

1. 3 Book Clubs: Romance in Grand Rapids, True Crim and Page Turner in Weston.
2. Saturday Read to Me Club for youth: We are going to strive to encourage intergenerational collaboration as our youth read to others. We are working on having a special guest for read to me times. Program will begin in Grand Rapids on Saturday, January 20th at 11:00 a.m.
3. The library will be inviting more local authors to our library locations to speak.
4. In-person and Facebook story time will continue.
5. Golden Afternoons for seniors begins Tuesday, January 9th at 1:00 Weston Public Library which is a time for seniors to gather, see what the library has to offer and share their personal histories and more.
6. Crochet Club will begin Saturday, January 27th at 1:30 at Weston Public Library for ages 15 and up for beginners and those who know how to crochet.
7. On Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Weston Public Library, Jeff Klein, director of Wood County Emergency Services will be presenting a program on how to prepare yourself and your family for the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse.
8. Seven children came to the library to read to the therapy dog. There were about 20 adults who observed the kids reading to the dog.

Patel inquired about flyers that could be handed out in the public for our programs. The only advertising is done on Facebook and not everyone has access. Sommerfeld inquired as to how many families in our district do not have wi-fi access. The Director will try to get that information from the school Superintendent.

OTHER

It was stated that the School Board will have to approve Bonnie Armitage to the Board of Trustees and that the relationship between the two boards is currently not in synch. A discussion was held as to whether the Library Board should attend a meeting of the School Board or if Sheperd, as President should approach the members of the school board. Attorney Joyce Nowak, who represents the Library Board pointed out that the Library Board should not attend a school board meeting as a group. Sommerfeld stated she attends the School Board meetings and gives updates as to what is happening with the library. Sheperd will attempt to speak to the school board president to establish a better working relationship.

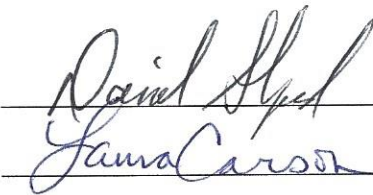
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Although Executive Session was on the Agenda, the matter was previously voted on in the meeting and no Executive Session was required.

ADJOURNMENT

Archambo made a motion, second by Patel, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Sommerfeld, aye; Carson, aye; Patel, aye; Shepard, aye. Archambo aye; Gamby, aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



____ President Dan Sheperd



____ Secretary Laura Carson