

LINCOLN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



July 6, 2023

Board Present: Andre Jordan, President; Helen Cox, Vice-President; Cristina Cray, Secretary; Geoff Pettys; Mary Mucciante; Marty Ryan (arrived 12:02pm)

Board Absent: Jessica Rubinkowski

Staff Present: Kathryn Harris, Interim Director; Emily Stone, Assistant Director; Denise Fisher, Office Coordinator

President Jordan called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

Roll was called.

Minutes: Minutes from the June 14th Special Board meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes unanimously carried.

Director's Report:

General Updates

- Kathryn Harris introduced Greg Moredock, Corporation Counsel for the City of Springfield.
- Curt Mann's last day is tomorrow. His good-bye party will be hosted later this afternoon.
- Stephanie Martin has accepted the position of Sangamon Valley Collection Manager and starts on July 10th. Stephanie Martin's current position of Librarian I will be posted as soon as possible.

- We are still waiting to hear back on whether the individual we selected for the Library Assistant IV position has accepted the offer.
- The Division Manager – Technology position has been reposted, again. We have yet to have qualified applicants.
- The Community Engagement Manager Job description has been reviewed and has been sent for fiscal review. Once this is completed, it will be posted.
- Dominique LaSalvia will be leaving her position as Fiscal Officer. Her last day will be July 14th, 2023. She has taken a position with the Illinois State Board of Education.
- The Director's position has been posted on the ILA site.

President's Report:

President Jordan stated that he did not have a report but was glad to see that the Board and staff were alright after the June 29th storm.

Unfinished Business: Geoff Pettys submitted for review two versions of a letter to be read and submitted to the Springfield City Council. Mr. Pettys explained to Mr. Moredock, Corporation Council, that there is a significant discrepancy between the powers the bylaws state that the Board of Trustees hold and what they do in practice. The bylaws state that the Board shall play a part in the search for new library directors. Mr. Pettys stated that it appeared that something changed in 2017 when Director Will O'Hearn was hired. The Board of Trustees played no part in the Director's search or hiring of Mr. O'Hearn. The Board was just introduced to him after he had been hired. Mr. Pettys stated that the same thing happened when the two subsequent Directors were hired.

The Board was given time to read both versions of the letter.

Referencing the end of the letter stating that Board President Andre Jordan would speak about the Board's proposed path forward, the question was raised as to what the path forward would be. Mr. Jordan stated that he believed the first objective should be to focus on informing the council of the discrepancies between the bylaws, city code, and the actual current functions of the Library Board. He suggested removing the last line, so that the emphasis would be on the current situation. The path forward could be resolved collectively at a later date. It was stated that the main objective is to have the actual Board functions be unified with City Code and Board bylaws.

Mr. Moredock was asked if he saw the discrepancies and saw room for improvement. He answered that he did. Mr. Moredock provided copies of Springfield City code. He also informed the Board that the City of Springfield operates under a consent decree, which is different than most other communities in the state. He also stated that

although Lincoln Library may be comparable in size to other surrounding libraries, their city codes and way they are governed are very different.

It was noted City Council can pass ordinances to change the governance structure.

Board members asked for more time to study the letters and suggest edits. It was decided that suggested edits will be sent to the Office Coordinator. She will forward suggestions to Mr. Pettys, who will edit the document.

A motion was made to meet again at special Board Meeting on July 13th at 12:00pm to approve the newly revised letter. This motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:54

