

OBERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 10, 2021 Regular

President Bruce Ente called to order the meeting at 5:03 p.m. Roll call: Megan Newson, Marcia Peterson, Bethany Baker, Bruce Ente, Patrick Prosser, and Anita Lock were present. Meredith Gadsby arrived later as noted. Also present were Darren McDonough, Director, and Kristin Cioffi, Fiscal Officer. Jan Thornton was present from the public.

Peterson moved, seconded by Lock, to accept Resolution # R-21-6-1, approving the minutes of the May 13, 2021, regular meeting. All present voted in favor.

MOTION PASSED

Lock moved, seconded by Peterson, to accept Resolution # R-21-6-2, approving the minutes of the 2022 Budget Hearing and the Records Commission meeting held May 13, 2021. All present voted in favor.

MOTION PASSED

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Cioffi reviewed the May 2021 financial reports, consisting of Fund Status, Revenue Status, Appropriation Status, and Bank Reconciliation. Cioffi reviewed the STAR Plus transfer to STAR Ohio, noting that the final interest will transfer around the middle of June. Cioffi reported that she submitted the 2022 Budget request to both the City of Oberlin and the Lorain County Auditor. Newson moved, seconded by Prosser to accept Resolution # R-21-6-3, accepting the May 2021 financial reports. All present voted in favor.

MOTION PASSED

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director McDonough reported the library returning to normal, including the return of all laid-off staff members. On June 2, Governor DeWine lifted all pandemic protocols. McDonough reported that Summer Reading has started and is available in-person and virtually. The Friends of OPL will hold sidewalk book sales in front of the library in conjunction with Oberlin Business Partnership's Second Saturdays.

Gadsby arrived at 5:10 p.m.

McDonough reported that public meeting rooms are open, and reservations have resumed. McDonough reported on the building's air conditioning (AC) repairs because of some issues. Baker asked if it's typical to inspect the AC during a building audit. Ente replied that it would. Newson asked how people know that meeting room reservations have resumed. McDonough responded that it is a soft

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opening. If reservations do not pick up, Office Manager Riva Wilson will start calling regular groups to let them know the rooms are open. Lock asked if the Friends of OPL are accepting donations. Friends member Jan Thorton confirmed that they are but asked that donors call first if they have a large donation.

COMMUNICATIONS AND GIFTS

Gadsby moved, seconded by Lock, to accept Resolution # R-21-6-4, to accept the following gifts:

In Memory of Jean Broadwell:

- \$50.00 from Susan Howard
- \$100.00 from Roger & Frances Cooper
- \$50.00 from Martha Stock

In Memory of Sofia Pineda:

- \$25.00 from Nancy Yood

From the Lorain County Sacred Landmarks Initiative:

- Book Donation - *Celebration of Faith: A Century of Worship in Lorain County*

All present voted in favor.

MOTION PASSED

Ente distributed a copy of a letter to the editor he submitted to the *Lorain County Community Guide* newspaper. Ente noted the letter was published today. It thanked the community for their support of the library and encouraged the public to stop in to visit the library.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ente pointed out that everyone has received information regarding Summer Reading and the Friends of OPL book sales. Ente distributed OLC membership cards to the trustees.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Baker had nothing to report but noted that the Friends of OPL meeting is coming up on Monday.

OLD BUSINESS none

NEW BUSINESS

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Ente circulated a discussion page for Strategic Planning for The Bridge that incorporated items from his thoughts and conversations with trustees. Ente recommended identifying issues to be addressed and deciding how to tackle those issues to determine who should be involved in the process. Lock commented that there was too much information to cover by a three-person committee, and perhaps topics should be divided and assigned to multiple groups. Peterson commented that she thinks it would be valuable to talk about strategic planning for the library, not just The Bridge. Gadsby commented that instead of addressing all the issues presented on the discussion page, the Board should focus on a few issues each year. An in-depth discussion about topics and themes concerning The Bridge and the community followed. Topics addressed: community programming; staffing issues; afterschool programming for kids; the relationship between The Bridge, the schools, and the college; technology needs and wants; reporting and statistics; strategic planning; and the need for space in a separate building. After much discussion, the Board chose a few questions, directing them toward Bridge Director Stephanie Jones and Assistant Bridge Coordinator Desmond Bowen. Jones, and possibly Bowen, will be asked to attend the next meeting to answer those questions. The questions chosen and directed toward Jones and Bowen were:

- Who are the primary target audiences for technology services and support (youth, adults, senior citizens, artists/creatives, school children, technologically sophisticated or unsophisticated community residents)?
- What ought to be the relationship between technology services at the OPL vs. The Bridge?
- How should The Bridge function in relationship to Oberlin schools, the needs of students, and the resources available through the school system?
- What constituencies and stakeholders should be consulted in considering future roles and services at The Bridge?
- What would you like to see The Bridge offer if money was no object?

The Board discussed and decided to cancel the regular July and August Board meetings and Committee meetings. Also, a special meeting to discuss Strategic Planning for The Bridge will replace the regular August meeting and include an

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invitation to Jones to attend the meeting. Bowen's attendance will be at Jones's discretion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jan Thornton remarked that the meeting was very interesting. She commented that the big question regarding The Bridge was whether it should be a technology center or a community center. She also commented that maybe the city could contribute to some of the costs since there is no city community center or senior center.

NEXT MEETING & COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

A special meeting to discuss Strategic Planning for The Bridge will be Thursday, August 12 at 5:00 p.m. Committee meetings will resume in September.

Lock moved, seconded by Newson, to adjourn. All present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

President

Attest