

## OBERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**May 11, 2023**

President Meredith Gadsby called to order the regular meeting at 5:05 p.m. Roll call: Phyllis Yarber Hogan, Melissa Stalnaker, Meredith Gadsby, and Bethany Baker were present. Marcia Peterson, Lili Sandler, and Megan Newson were absent. Also present were David Fausnaugh, Director, Kristin Cioffi, Fiscal Officer, and members of the public.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kevin Weidenbaum (99 South Cedar) read a letter to the Board asking that they help in persuading the Director to return to the policy of not loaning current issues of magazines. The letter detailed Weidenbaum's reasons for seeking the change.

Victoria Hart (27 ½ East College) noted leaving letters for the Board advocating against the Chicken Hatching program held recently at the library. Hart detailed the "dark side" of the program and asked that the library consider not having the program back again.

### MINUTES

Stalnaker moved, seconded by Hogan, to accept Resolution # R-23-5-1, approving the minutes of the April 13, 2023 regular meeting. Roll call vote: Hogan, Stalnaker, Gadsby, Baker, ALL AYES.

MOTION PASSED

Since Peterson was unable to attend the meeting, Gadsby read some comments emailed by Peterson before the meeting.

### FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Cioffi reviewed the April 2023 financial reports (Fund Status, Revenue Status, Appropriation Status, and Bank Reconciliation). Cioffi reviewed revenue and expenditure percentages and reported that the library received the 1<sup>st</sup> half property tax rollback revenue. Gadsby asked if there were any plans for the building this year. Fausnaugh responded that the building is in the planning stage and that he wants to monitor the budget this year. Stalnaker asked if there was any news about the patio tree. Fausnaugh responded that he is waiting to speak with the City's arborist about it. Hogan noted that she was happy to see the menstrual product dispenser installed and being utilized. Baker moved, seconded by Stalnaker, to accept Resolution # R-23-5-2, accepting the April 2023 Financial Reports. Roll call vote: Hogan, Stalnaker, Gadsby, Baker, ALL AYES.

MOTION PASSED

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### PERSONNEL

Fausnaugh reported that there are no updates for this month, but there will be a resignation and a couple of new hires to approve next month.

### OLD BUSINESS

Hogan reported that the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group's lock-in was a success and everyone enjoyed it. Hogan thanked Fausnaugh and Office Manager Jesse Hogan for their help with the event.

Gadsby commented that the library's table at Culture fest was lovely. Gadsby also complimented the front displays at the library and thanked the Director and all the staff for creating such wonderful displays and programming. Fausnaugh responded that the staff deserve 100% of the credit.

### NEW BUSINESS

Cioffi reviewed the 2023 Tax Budget. Stalnaker moved, seconded by Baker, to accept Resolution # R-23-5-3, to approve the 2023 Tax Budget (copy attached) and to forward it to the proper authorities. Roll call vote: Hogan, Stalnaker, Gadsby, Baker, ALL AYES.

MOTION PASSED

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fausnaugh reported that the Friends of OPL book sale went well. Fausnaugh noted that the Friends of OPL are suspending book sale donations while they reevaluate future fundraising activities. Since book donations to the library are given to the Friends of OPL, the library has suspended accepting donations, too.

Hogan asked what the library received for participating in the Ecolympics. Fausnaugh explained that the program raises awareness and is a way for the library to support a community initiative. It was noted that program is a friendly competition, but no prizes are awarded.

Baker noted that she doesn't understand what drop in hours at The Bridge and Backspace mean. Baker and Gadsby commented that in order to make changes that are best for the community, they would like see statistics for The Bridge and Backspace that show how and when the space is used.

Baker moved, second by Stalnaker to accept Resolution # R-23-5-4, to accept the following gifts:

- \$50.00 from Nancy Yood in memory of Jane Grogg
- Funding of the Chalk Walk Mural on the library's retaining wall from the Friends of OPL

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Roll call vote: Hogan, Stalnaker, Gadsby, Baker, ALL AYES.

MOTION PASSED

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

David Ashenhurst (260 Sumner Street) commented that he hoped the Board heard from the Fiscal Officer about OLC's Legislative Day. Ashenhurst also commented that the year 2019 should be used as a baseline when looking at the usage and statistics for the library and The Bridge. Ashenhurst commented that he hopes the library and the Friends of OPL consider the fate of the book sale. Ashenhurst offered to answer any questions regarding the pending litigation against the Board, noting that the online court docket had an item listed that should be removed. Gadsby commented that the Board communicates with their attorney Greg Peltz as needed.

Victoria Hart (27 ½ East College) asked what the Board hoped to accomplish with the chicken hatching program. Gadsby responded that program is part of the day-to-day operations of the library and is the responsibility of the director, not the Board. Gadsby commented that Board trusts Director Fausnaugh implicitly. Hart commented that the public may be told one thing, but they do not hear about the dark side of the program. Hart noted that the letters she sent describe the details.

In response to Ashenhurst's comment, Cioffi gave an overview of OLC's legislative day. Cioffi reported that although there was a lunch, Gayle Manning was the only individual legislator that stopped by the Lorain County table. Cioffi reported attending both the House and Senate sessions, but noted that it was disappointing to not have any individual meetings with the county's representatives. Cioffi noted that the group did run into Representative Joe Miller while walking to the sessions, and he commented that most of the legislators were busy working on the pending budget.

Technical Services Team Leader Erin Shiba commented there have been a lot of questions from the public regarding the book sale and the egg hatching program. Shiba noted that the staff has handled the questions very well, and Fausnaugh has been very supportive.

Baker moved, seconded by Hogan, to adjourn. Roll call vote Hogan, Stalnaker, Gadsby, Baker, ALL AYES. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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President

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Attest