

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NEW ALBANY-FLOYD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Presiding Officer: Roger Whaley, President

Board Members present: Steve Burks, Ann Carruthers, Erica Lawrence, Amy Niemeier, Pamela Poe, and Kate Ziady

Board Members absent: None

Staff Members present: Melissa Merida, Sandra Fortner, Erin McCorkle, Luis Munoz, Allison Kilberg, Danna Bush, and Laura Wilkins

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2024 BUDGET

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:32 pm.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Burks requested a moment of silence to remember the anniversary of 9/11.

Mr. Burks moved: That the Public Hearing be adjourned.

Seconded by: Ms. Ziady

Motion: approved unanimously

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order in the Strassweg Auditorium at 5:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval and signing of Board minutes for August 7 meeting*
- B. Approval of Bills and Invoices paid*
- C. Set Board meeting for October 2*
- D. Items to be declared surplus*

Mr. Burks moved: That the Consent Agenda be approved.

Seconded by: Ms. Niemeier

Motion: approved unanimously

PUBLIC INPUT

Allison Kilberg reported that Galena Library's 6th anniversary celebration was a success. Laura Wilkins reported on the current Carnegie exhibit *The Underground Railroad: The Still Family & Charles Nalle*. There is also an exhibit about News and Tribune photographer Don Beck as part of the Louisville Photo Biennial.

Michelle Elisberg, Melanie Hughes, Amber Duke, and Rian MarQuand expressed their concerns with the Faith-Friendly Story Time that was held at the Library on August 5.

PERSONNEL

Sandra Fortner reported two resignations: Customer Service Liaison Caleb Brison and Museum Educator Hanna Gish.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Merida distributed a statistics brochure that will be given to the County Council. The Library is on track to surpass last year's usage, programming, and outreach numbers. Because of budget issues, the Library is in a hiring freeze and will only replace significant roles. The Library is again hosting the Harvest Homecoming stage, running the photo contest, and having a booth at the festival.

The Reads and Roasts adult reading program started on September 1.

Construction is finished on the Adult Services offices. The new staff lounge is almost finished.

Next year, the old staff lounge will be converted to a public makerspace.

The Board will tour the newly remodeled areas on October 2 prior to the Board meeting.

The retaining wall at Carnegie was damaged by a suspected hit and run. We are working with insurance and awaiting an estimate for repair.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Whaley had no news to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Transfer Resolutions:

This resolution moves funds within Collection Development to trim the budget.

Ms. Niemeier moved: That resolution 23-FIN-005 be approved.

Seconded by: Ms. Carruthers

Motion: approved unanimously

Holiday Schedule 2024:

Mr. Burks moved: That the Holiday Schedule for 2024 be approved.

Seconded by: Ms. Ziady

Motion: approved unanimously

Ms. Merida reported that she was asked to hold the ILF regional conference again, so another in-service will be added when that date is determined.

Carnegie Inc. Management:

Carnegie Inc. plans to donate \$50,000 to the Falls of the Ohio Foundation for an anticipated Underground Railroad public art project. Ms. Merida received questions of the legality of the donation because Carnegie Inc's bylaws state that they exist to support the Carnegie Center. The Library attorney's office has reviewed the bylaws and believes the donation is not appropriate, unless the money had been fundraised specifically for that project.

The Board discussed at length the various issues about the proposed donation. They expressed concern that money raised in the name of the Library or Carnegie Center could be diverted to other organizations. They agreed that the two boards should meet to discuss the matter.

Ms. Poe moved: To send Carnegie Inc. a letter of disapproval for the donation, signed from the Board, along with the attorney's findings.

Seconded by: Ms. Lawrence

Motion: approved unanimously

Carnegie Inc.'s next meeting is planned for September 20. The Board agreed that some members would try to attend. They also suggested that Carnegie Inc. be invited to the Library Board meeting in October.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Reviewed and approved by Board of Trustees.....October 2, 2023

	
	
	
	