

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**NEW ALBANY-FLOYD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**OCTOBER 2, 2023**

Presiding Officer: Roger Whaley, President

Board Members present: Steve Burks, Ann Carruthers, Pamela Poe, and Kate Ziady

Board Members absent: Erica Lawrence and Amy Niemeier

Staff Members present: Melissa Merida, Sandra Fortner, Erin McCorkle, and Laura Wilkins

Guests present: Library attorney Jason Lopp

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order in the Strassweg Auditorium at 5:34 pm.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval and signing of Board minutes for September 11 meeting*
- B. Approval of Bills and Invoices paid*
- C. Set Board meeting for November 6*

Mr. Burks moved: That the Consent Agenda be approved.  
Seconded by: Ms. Carruthers  
Motion: approved unanimously

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**PERSONNEL**

Sandra Fortner reported that Librarian Alexandra Stepp resigned on September 16, and Librarian Veronica Palensky resigned on September 23. Allison McClain starts work October 3 as a full-time Customer Service Liaison. She was here previously as a Work One intern, and will work at both Central and Carnegie.  
Central Leader Aaron Williams and his wife had a baby this morning and are doing well.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Merida distributed a written response from Aaron Williams regarding the Faith Based Storytime public comments from last month. Mr. Williams wanted the Board to know that he assigned unhappy staff to other areas of the building during the event.  
The Library's book bike should be painted and ready to display in the Harvest Homecoming booth next week.  
There have been over 220 entries submitted for the Harvest Homecoming photo contest.

## **FOUNDATION REPORT**

Mr. Whaley had no news to report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Approve 2024 Budget:

The total budget for 2024 is \$4,803,624.

Mr. Burks moved: That the 2024 Budget (23-FIN-006) be approved.

Seconded by: Ms. Ziady

Motion: approved unanimously

### Carnegie Inc. Situation:

Ms. Poe stated that Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Niemeier did a great job speaking on behalf of the Board of Trustees at the last Carnegie Inc. meeting.

Library attorney Jason Lopp reported that there are different types of 509 non-profits. Some are supporting organizations, and others are more generic. Carnegie Inc. is a generic type. From the IRS' perspective, they are not required to solely support the Library.

The Board discussed the situation at length. They agreed that Library staff should stop doing Carnegie Inc.'s work. They discussed possible options like a new memorandum of understanding, or parting ways with Carnegie Inc. Since 2021, Carnegie Inc. has contributed about \$83,000 to the Library (approximately \$28,000 per year). If the Library stopped receiving those funds, exhibitions would be scaled back or more fundraising would be needed. This is definitely a possibility due to the low annual amount.

Mr. Burks moved: That the Library should thank Carnegie Inc. for their past support and dissolve the relationship between the two entities.

Seconded by: Ms. Carruthers

Discussion: Mr. Lopp pointed out that a plan must be made to phase out membership benefits, which are sold by Carnegie Inc. but are linked to Library events.

Ms. Carruthers moved: That the Carnegie Inc. issue be tabled.

Seconded by: Mr. Burks

Motion: approved unanimously

Ms. Merida would like to work with the Board to determine what the Library would want in a new memorandum of understanding.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Quarterly PLAC Report:

There were no PLAC cards sold this quarter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Reviewed and approved by Board of Trustees.....November 6, 2023

Erica Laurino  
Kate Laddy  
Pamela D. Pe  
R. Long

~~Steve Burt~~  
Amy Niemeijer  
Ann Caruthers