

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NEW ALBANY-FLOYD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
DECEMBER 4, 2023

Presiding Officer: Roger Whaley, President

Board Members present: Steve Burks, Ann Carruthers, Erica Lawrence, Amy Niemeier,

Board Members absent: Pamela Poe and Kate Ziady

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

Guests present: Library attorney Jason Lopp

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order in the Strassweg Auditorium at 5:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval and signing of Board minutes for November 6 meeting*
- B. Approval of Bills and Invoices paid*
- C. Set Board meeting for January 8*

Mr. Whaley requested to remove item *A* for discussion.

Ms. Lawrence moved: That the Consent Agenda items *B* and *C* be approved.
Seconded by: Ms. Carruthers
Motion: approved unanimously

Item A:

Mr. Whaley would like to include the full text of the Carnegie Inc. resolution as an addendum to the November minutes.

Ms. Niemeier moved: That Item *A* be approved with the addition as requested.
Seconded by: Ms. Lawrence
Motion: approved unanimously

PUBLIC INPUT

Tom Jones spoke about his history with Carnegie Inc. and urged the Board to not remove "Carnegie" from the branch name. The Board discussed the name and will revisit the issue at the January meeting.

PERSONNEL

There were no new hires or resignations.
Board member Kate Ziady welcomed a baby last week.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

All 1,200 kits are complete for the Gingerbread Extravaganza day on December 9. The Polar Express Party is coming up on December 20.

Ms. Merida congratulated Laura Wilkins and Allison Kilberg for their latest exhibit at the Cultural Arts Center. The opening reception was one of the biggest in quite a while.

It appears the Library will end the financial year better than anticipated, thanks to the staff's efforts to cut back on spending.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Whaley had no news to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Cultural Arts Center transition update:

Carnegie Inc. sent a letter requesting a meeting in response to last month's resolution. Mr. Lopp suggested the Transition Committee meet with them. Mr. Lopp will work with representatives from Carnegie Inc. to find dates that will work for everyone.

The process to hand off Carnegie Inc.'s records and files has begun. Records are being kept of what items have been handed over.

Logo:

The Board viewed proposed designs for a new Cultural Arts Center logo. They agreed to revisit it after the next meeting's discussion about updating the branch name.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Board Meeting dates for 2024:

Mr. Burks moved: That the Board meeting dates of 2024 be approved.

Seconded by: Ms. Carruthers

Motion: approved unanimously

Select Treasurer for 2024:

Ms. Carruthers moved: That Amy Niemeier remain Board Treasurer for 2024.

Seconded by: Mr. Burks

Motion: approved unanimously

Ms. Niemeier took the Oath of Office.

Certification of Staff Internal Control training:

Ms. Merida certified that all employees have completed Internal Control training.

Update Internal Controls:

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Closure for ILF Regional Conference – April 19:

Ms. Merida asked for permission to close on April 19, 2024 to host the ILF Regional Conference.

Mr. Burks moved: That the request to close on April 19 be granted.

Seconded by: Ms. Niemeier

Motion: approved unanimously

Building Use Policy:

The Building Use Policy was updated to simplify the wording and incorporate updates to the weapon and child safety policies.

Mr. Burks moved: That the Building Use Policy be approved.

Seconded by: Ms. Lawrence

Motion: approved unanimously

Updated Strategic Plan:

Ms. Merida distributed the updated Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, titled “Creating a Library Lifestyle.”

Mr. Burks moved: That the updated Strategic Plan be adopted.

Seconded by: Ms. Carruthers

Discussion: The updated Strategic Plan should be submitted to the state by the end of the year. If the name of the Cultural Arts Center is changed at the January meeting, the Plan can be updated.

Motion: approved unanimously

IUS Disaster Planning Agreement:

If a disaster were to endanger the Library’s special collections (such as archives, photos, and artifacts), IUS would temporarily house them. The agreement is reciprocal in the event of a disaster at IUS.

Mr. Burks moved: That the agreement be approved.

Seconded by: Ms. Niemeier

Motion: approved unanimously

Resolution for transfers:

This resolution lists the end of year transfers. There may be a few more transfers in January after all the year-end bills are paid.

Ms. Lawrence moved: That Resolution 23-FIN-007 be approved.

Seconded by: Mr. Burks

Motion: approved unanimously

Other Business:

Mr. Lopp suggested that the Board appoint a temporary secretary while Ms. Ziady is on maternity leave.

Ms. Niemeier moved: That Steve Burks be appointed temporary secretary.

Seconded by: Ms. Carruthers

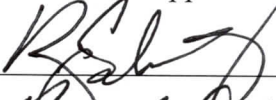
Motion: approved unanimously

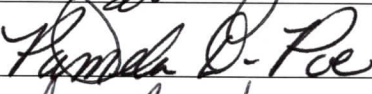
Mr. Whaley asked for personal privilege before adjourning to read a letter he wrote to the Board regarding the Carnegie Inc. issue and asked that it be included in the minutes. (copy appended)


ADJOURNMENT

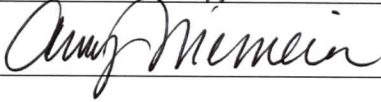
As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

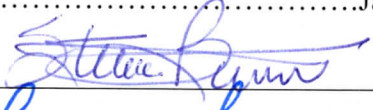
Reviewed and approved by Board of Trustees.....January 8, 2024

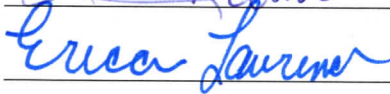












My appointment to this Board will expire at the end of the month and I anticipate that this will be my last meeting. I have served this library in excess of 40 years, and I believe in the evolution of the library's mission to serve the public.

In my 40 plus years, I have never seen anything that rivals the divisive resolution concerning Carnegie Inc. approved by this Board at our last meeting. As Board president, it is my firm belief that this Board has been the victim of gross manipulation.

I honestly do not understand why this Board would divorce itself from another organization whose sole purpose is to raise money in support of our Carnegie Center, and, by extension, for the good of this library. I believe that the resolution to separate Carnegie Inc. from the Carnegie Center is a major error with a sea of unintended consequences. As a simple example, projects and events formerly supported by Carnegie Inc. will now become a burden on the library's public tax funds.

A motion to approve a resolution of this magnitude should have required a first and second reading rather than immediate approval without further consideration and I fault myself for this error.

I close my request for personal privilege with the admonition that this board has just cut off its collective nose to spite its face. This resolution for dissolution makes no sense to me. As this Board moves forward, I will leave each of you with the caution to be a sterner judge of what is the truth.