

**MINUTES of the MISSISSIPPI VALLEY LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: August 21, 2023

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Fairmont City Library, Fairmont City, IL

Call to Order

Jeanne Lomax, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

Trustees present:

Jeanne Lomax, President

Ginny York, Vice-President

Cathy Kulupka, Treasurer

Lisa McCormick, Secretary

Kathy Murphy, Trustee

Ana Romero-Lizana, Trustee

Mark Schusky, Trustee

Trustees absent:

Also present:

Kyla Waltermire, Executive Director, via Zoom

Matt Harris, Assistant Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Input

Michael Treece, Jr. expressed his concerns regarding what he felt was York and Lomax's personal bias.

Sharon Autenrieth was concerned because she believed some members of the board were pushing a conservative agenda.

Ted Crail spoke regarding his believe in the first amendment and that libraries are for everyone.

Cynthia Klein expressed her positive experiences with the library but has concerns regarding some of the newest library board members. See attached written input.

Dorothy Joyce voiced her concerns about the removal of bookmarks from the library and the board's discussion regarding adding a new lawyer.

DeeAnna Beckham representing Parents for Change, is concerned about her belief that some of the board will discriminating against people that are different.

Friends of the Library

- Book sale on August 18 and 19 went very well. They are tentatively looking at December for next book sale.
- They offered to pay for digital marquee component that failed. The part has been replaced.

Trustee Comment

None

Consent Items

A motion to approve Consent Items in their entirety was made by Schusky and seconded by York.

- a. Approval of Minutes – July 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes reviewed; approved with minor update.
- b. Communications: None
- c. Administrative Reports
Executive Director:
 - Waltermire announced a new clerk hire, Bee Brown. She is working out very well.
 - Waltermire indicated that staffing is currently very tight. Due to illness and unfilled positions, the Collinsville Library offered curbside service only the evening of August 21.Assistant Director:
 - Harris reported that the Back to School Bash at Fairmont City was a huge success with the daily door count of over 870 for that day and that number did not account for the patrons that did not enter the library.
- d. Finances – Finances reviewed.
 - No update
- e. Committee Reports
 - Murphy enquired about the outstanding fines on the balance sheet. Waltermire explained that those fines are a running total from the beginning of reporting outstanding fines. The fines are for unreturned or damaged items. If a patron owes more than \$75, their information will be turned over to a collection agency.
 - Decennial Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2023 at 5:30.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to approve consent items:

Cathy Kulupka – Yes
Jeanne Lomax – Yes
Lisa McCormick - Yes
Kathy Murphy - Yes
Ana Romero-Lizana - Yes
Mark Schusky - Yes

Ginny York - Yes
Yes- 7, No – 0, Abstained – 0, Absent – 0

Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

- a. Repairs & Updates to the Blum House (Collinsville Library Foundation) – No update.
- b. Eagle Scout Project – The project was finished the first weekend of August. The brick area in front of the museum has doubled in size.
- c. Disposal of Short Street Lot
 - Waltermire requested guidance from the board on if she should continue to pursue selling the Short Street lot. The board agreed that she should continue but that it was low priority.
 - Lomax said that she would reach out to a realtor.
- d. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Legal Representation for the MVLD
 - Discussion occurred regarding whether the MVLD should continue with one lawyer or go with two lawyers. If two lawyers, then one would be the current lawyer, who specializing in library law, and the second would be a local lawyer to address local issues that fall outside library law.
 - Lomax expressed concern with the current lawyer and previous legal advice he provided to the library. She felt his advice was setting the library up for legal issues.
 - Waltermire explained that current attorney, Phil Lenzini, is part of the Heyl Royster law firm and, while Lenzini is in Peoria, the firm has an office in Edwardsville. In the past Waltermire has used Lenzini’s firm for issues outside of library law.
 - Kulupka stated that if there was a lawsuit against the library, there would be ample time to hire an attorney with appropriate expertise if the current law firm didn’t have the expertise.
 - Waltermire responded that if the library was sued then we would probably have to hire an expert regardless.

Romero-Lizana moved and Kulupka seconded to continue with the current MVLD primary lawyer.

A roll call was taken on the motion:

Cathy Kulupka – Yes
Jeanne Lomax – No
Lisa McCormick - Yes
Kathy Murphy - Abstained
Ana Romero-Lizana - Yes
Mark Schusky - Yes
Ginny York – No

Yes- 4, No – 2, Abstained –1, Absent – 0

Motion carried.

- e. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Grant from the Agency for Community Transit for Transportation needs for patrons of the MVLDD
 - Miriam Bell from the Agency for Community Transit (ACT) spoke to the board regarding possible grant opportunities.
 - Waltermire enquired if grant money can be used to put in a bike rack in front of the building and Bell indicated that a bike rack is a viable grant project.
 - Waltermire requested advice about obtaining a grant since the library is not a 501c3. Bell indicated that grant money may be available for special taxing districts within Madison County, such as the MVLDD. The ACT board does grant exemptions and encouraged Waltermire to apply.

New Business

- a. Decennial Committee Meeting – Appointment of Member of the Public
 - Waltermire has had trouble contacting one of the public members to confirm the next meeting. Romero-Lizana volunteered to contact the member and inform him of the next meeting.
 - If the public member does not respond, another public member will be appointed at the next Board meeting.
- b. Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official
 - Lomax appointed herself to serve in this role.
- c. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Recipient(s) of Board Email Account's Messages
 - The Board's email address is an alias which redirects to other, real email accounts. In the past email messages were redirected to the Board President's email account. It was decided to continue with the process and emails will be directed to the current President's email account.
- d. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Public Attendance at Board Meetings via Online Digital Services(s)
 - Remote access to board meetings was turned off due to being "Zoom bombed" in a previous meeting.
 - McCormick explained that a certain security feature was turned off for that meeting due to members of the public having issues with meeting passwords during the prior few meetings.
 - It was decided by the board to allow Zoom meeting attendance for members of the public, with appropriate security measures in place, and to inform remote attendees that they may need to try multiple times to gain access.
- e. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Bylaws Update
 - Due to an update to 5 ILCS 120/7, it was recommended to modify Remote Attendance by Individual Members Bylaw to include unexpected childcare obligations as one of the approved reasons for Board members to attend remotely.
 - Order of Business was updated to reflect the addition of "Friends of the Library" and "Trustee Comments" as ongoing agenda items. These items are already in effect on agendas; the revision would align the bylaws with current practice.

- As part of the Order of Business conversation, Lomax discussed listing specific exemptions under Closed Session. Waltermire shared that, after Lomax had brought this up in conversation with her previously, she contacted the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Illinois Attorney General's office to see if the PAC had recommended wording to use. The PAC attorney explained that public bodies do not need to provide the reasons why they will go into closed session on a meeting agenda in order to hold a closed session at that meeting, so long as a topic is already given notice on the agenda, the specific closed session exemption is cited as part of the motion to enter closed session, and the exemption is included in the meeting's minutes.

Schusky motioned and Murphy seconded to approve the bylaws updates.

A roll call was taken on the motion:

Cathy Kulupka – Yes
Jeanne Lomax – Yes
Lisa McCormick - Yes
Kathy Murphy - Yes
Ana Romero-Lizana - Yes
Mark Schusky - Yes
Ginny York – Yes

Yes- 7, No – 0, Abstained – 0, Absent – 0

Motion carried.

- f. Review of Serving Our Public 4.0 Chapter 10 – No discussion.

Closed Session – None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Romero-Lizana and seconded by Kulupka to adjourn.

A voice vote was taken on the motion.

Cathy Kulupka – Yes
Jeanne Lomax – Yes
Lisa McCormick - Yes
Kathy Murphy - Yes
Ana Romero-Lizana - Yes
Mark Schusky - Yes
Ginny York – Yes

Yes- 7, No – 0, Abstained – 0, Absent – 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.