

**Minutes of the Mississippi Valley Library District
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**

DATE: February 18, 2025

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Fairmont City Library, Fairmont City, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jeanne Lomax, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
Swearing in of Board Trustee Uta Robinson performed by Matt Harris.

ROLL CALL

Trustees present:

Jeanne Lomax, President
Ginny York, Vice-President
Kathy Murphy, Secretary
Cathy Kulupka, Treasurer
Mark Schusky, Trustee
Uta Robison, Trustee

Trustees absent: Ana Romero-Lizana

Also absent: Kyla Waltermire, Executive Director

Also present: Matt Harris, Assistant Director

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Input

The following members of the public spoke:

- * Michael Treece
- * Ian Ashcraft

4. Friends Update

Harris reminded us that the Friends have a Book Sale this coming Friday and Saturday at Collinsville Library.

5. Trustee Comments

* Kulupka was approached by a patron who was surprised to not find a Valentine display nor a Black History Month display. When she inquired to a staff member she was directed to the two end caps for the displays. * Kulupka made a FOIA request for Lomax's communications to the Director about her removing line items from the agenda when Lomax wasn't able to attend. Kulupka is concerned Lomax is asking Waltermire to do extra work for her.

* Lomax replied that she found very little on display for President's Day. She reminded us that Waltermire had decided to only put **Fiction** displays on the circular display shelves in the front of the library, therefore, excluding Black History month displays from there. The other topics would be on the end caps.

* Lomax asked Waltermire for the applications of those applying for the Board replacement position, since we had not received those in a timely manner. A special meeting was set for this. * Board President sets the agenda.

* *Lomax asked Waltermire for the information regarding the unionizing issue since it had been 21 days before the Board heard anything about this. She is not asking Waltermire to draft any documents the Board should not have already received, but had not.

* Lomax asked for the RFPs for the elevator, since we had not received those after they were due in.

6. Consent Items: Moved by Murphy, seconded by York

a. Approval of January 21, 2025 minutes

b. Communications - 2 received

c. Administration Reports - Harris had 2 comments from Waltermire:

- We have received a partial funding IHLS marketing micro grant, in process

- Limited Engagement with lawyer regarding unionization.

Lomax had a question about door counts on reports.

Murphy had question about the amount saved by patrons. By checking out items, these items have a cost per item. This amount is the approx. cost savings by using the library instead of buying the item.

d. Finances

Robison has found the reports to be very straightforward. Kudos that they are really easy to read. Water bill high, due to leak in fountain in the past.

- Percentages by this time of our fiscal year, compare it to 58%, is a good “guesstimate” of where we should be. Blum House rental a little lower, but Collinsville room rentals are up. Audit expense is just once a year.

York - expense by vendor - fire extinguisher inspection. Once a year cost.

- Professional Legal service for elevator. For RFPs.

Lomax - 30 Aqua park passes. A very popular commodity with the public.

Lomax - elevator phone line. Too difficult to have turned off and on.

- Mad Science program very popular. Come once to each facility.
- Lazerware is our IT company. Switch replacements.
- Covid leave fund - staff members out recently.

Roll call Vote to accept consent items:

Kulupka - yes

Lomax - yes

Murphy - yes

Robison - yes

Romero- Lizana - absent

Schusky - yes

York - yes

Yes 6, No: 0, Abstain - 0. Motion passed.

e. Committee Reports

i. Finance - none

ii. Personnel - none

iii. Fundraiser - Culver’s Night February 26

- 2 staff member are hosting a Puzzle Race March 22, 2- 4 pm. 15 teams, prizes for fastest. \$60 per table.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Elevator repair proposals - Waltermire recommends MEI.

Discussion of the various proposals. Length of time in business, etc. Lomax spoke to some of their references. Very good reports for MEI and have recently replaced 3 jacks. Unfortunately all had long lead times, due to need to order parts. Good warranty. MEI were the cheapest on the maintenance agreement as well. Load test has been done once. They do maintenance on many properties.

Harris said: Waltermire asked for two motions:

1. MEI for the repairs
2. Adopt MEI as our regular maintenance contractor as well.

Motion to accept MEI to replace jack assembly, power unit, and solid state starter on the elevator: Schusky moved, Kulupka seconded.

Roll call vote:

Kulupka - yes
Lomax - yes
Murphy - yes
Robison - yes
Romero- Lizana - absent
Schusky - yes
York - yes
Yes - 6, No - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion passed

Motion to give MEI Maintenance Contract for Elevator: Schusky moved, York seconded.

Roll call vote:

Kulupka - yes
Lomax - yes
Murphy - yes
Robison - yes
Romero- Lizana - absent
Schusky - yes
York - yes
Yes - 6, No - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion passed.

b, Update on Executive Director Evaluation Process - Romero-Lizana not present. Postponed until next Board meeting.

c. Discussion and Action of Resolution 24-04 to authorize Property tax Abatement for Teklab, Inc.

One representative and the owner of Teklab were present and reiterated their request. Updated tax proposal. TIF no longer available. Adding 40 jobs to this area. They test soil and water. They have already started groundwork on the site. Hope to finish the project by end of year.

Schusky thanked them for being a family owned business and staying the area.

Murphy asked why 20 years of tax abatement? Representatives response was - It is only 10 years for this project.

Robison had a pie chart showing they will only receive 2.8% of their tax abatement from the library. They already receive 66% for the School district and another large percentage from the City and Township of Collinsville. So, since we have just voted for a costly elevator repair, she does not think Teklab will be hurt by our voting to not give them a tax abatement. And if we would vote yes, the Library would have to pass it's abatement cost loss on to the tax payers.

Motion to approve Resolution 25-04 : Schusky moved, Kulupka seconded.

Roll call vote:

Kulupka - yes

Lomax - no

Murphy - no

Romero-Lizana - absent

Schusky - yes

York - no

Robison - no

Yes: 2, No: 4, Abstain - 0. Motion does not pass.

8. New Business

a. Discussion and action on Legal Counsel

Two proposals: a. FordHarrison Group and b. Guin Mundorf, LLC

Lomax - looked into references and was directed to Guin Mundorf, LLC. Which ever lawyer we use, it is the Board's lawyer. She does not have confidence in our current lawyer who is based in Peoria. And he does not do Labor Law, so Waltermire had to look around for a different lawyer for the Unionization. Lomax would like to have the same Law Firm for the Board as well as for the Labor issue. She would also prefer a local group.

Caleb Mundorf from Guin Mundorf presented. Many clients of School Districts (60 across the state), collective bargaining for Police officers and other clients, and other Municipal governments. They are local. Caleb Mundorf focuses on collective bargain, personnel.

Schusky had question as to voting for current Labor issue, but Lomax is wanting to hire Guin Mundorf for the Board as well as Labor issue.

Further discussion on to how often the Board uses a lawyer. What policy issues we have need of legal council. FordHarrison is not part of the Peoria group.

We will postpone voting on hiring general counsel for the Board until next Board meeting.

Motion to hire Guin Mundorf for the Labor law issue only at an hourly rate:
York: motioned, Murphy seconded.

Roll call vote:

Kulupka - yes

Lomax - yes

Murphy - yes

Robison - yes

Romero- Lizana - absent

Schusky - yes

York - yes

Yes - 6, No - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion passed

b. Review Serving Our Public 4.0 , Chapters 3 & 4

Lomax mentioned it might be time to review our personnel policy.

9. Closed Session - none

10. Action for items discussed in Closed Session: none

11. Adjournment

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Kulupka.

Voice Vote:

Yes: 6, No - 0, Abstain, 0. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 8:06 pm.