



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**  
**Meeting of the Board**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Main Library, Community Meeting Room and Remote**

**Members Present**

Tracy Fulce, Rachel Hayman, Adam Goodman, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Benjamin Schapiro, Russ Shubet, Terry Soto and Esther Wallen.

**Members Absent**

none

**Staff Present**

Elacsha Madison, Heather Norborg, Jan Bojda, Jenette Sturges, Jill Skwerski, John Devaney, Lea Hernandez-Solis and Wynn Shawver.

**Presiding Member**

Tracy Fulce, President

**Call to order/Declaration of Quorum**

President Fulce called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was established at 6:33 p.m.

Motion to amend the agenda for Heather Norborg to make a statement after the land acknowledgement was made by Trustee Schapiro seconded by Trustee Wallen.

**Citizen Comment**

**Jarrett Dapier**, 8th Ward resident

**Kirsten D'Aurelio**, 4th Ward resident

**Sara Hines**, 1st Ward resident

The events that occurred on January 9th on the third floor of the main location of the Evanston Public Library concerning a person in crisis and a contracted security staff member are unacceptable and represent an acute failure of training, de-escalation, and public safety in one of our most important public institutions. It is unacceptable that a security contractor would brandish a firearm in a public building that explicitly prohibits firearms in accordance with Illinois law [The Evanston Public Library follows Illinois State Law [430 ILCS 66], which prohibits the carrying of any weapon, including concealed or partially concealed, in Library buildings or on Library property.], regardless of the individual's status as law enforcement in another jurisdiction. This failure of duty and adherence to the Library's own Rules of Use merit an assessment of all contracts and an explicit articulation of the duty of security officers to be trained and exhibit proficiency in de-escalation and trauma informed public safety strategies.

- Sara Hines, Local Group Lead, Moms Demand Action Evanston

**Maria Tolpin**, 6th Ward resident

My 1/10/23 comment in response to the 1/9/23 Roundtable article "Man arrested after incident at Evanston Public Library":

Given that EPL is currently "in between" having a social worker to staff the library, I'm especially distressed to hear about this incident involving a patron and a security guard with a firearm. It would be my hope that a mental health professional would be able to intervene and offer deescalation services rather than having an armed security guard's intervention. The presence of a firearm may in and of itself escalate a tense or stressful situation or individual experiencing a mental health crisis. I look forward to learning more about EPL's "safety and security protocols".

**Pooja Louis**, 3rd Ward resident

Guns have no place in our public spaces. I visit the library frequently with my three year old daughter and one year old son. As I recall there are signs stating that firearms are not allowed on the premises. It is inappropriate that a security guard was carrying one on site, even if they were doing so in the capacity of an off duty police officer, which honestly seems problematic as an exception to this rule as well.

I would love to see the library staff, including all security personnel, be given access to a de-escalation training for management of situations like these if they haven't already, as I suspect incidents like this will continue to occur with the housing difficulties many people in Evanston and Chicago are facing at this stage of the pandemic. It is important to remember that our public spaces are for all people to gather in safely, including those without access to safe housing.

One potential solution to aid homeless people in crisis who come to the library would be to see if a volunteer from the connections for the homeless shelter located in Evanston would be willing to be on call for the library, or potentially stay there during open hours to give homeless people resources.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the December 14 , 2022 Board Meeting. Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Lurie, the consent agenda was approved.

### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Joint Task Force):**

- A. Racial Equity Task Force (Distributed in Advance)

### **Library Director's Report**

Written report provided in advance.

### **Staff Report:**

Administrative Services Report (Distributed in Advance).

### **Board Reports:**

- A. Development Committee
- B. Endowment Investment Committee
- C. Executive Committee
- D. Management & Policy Committee
- E. Board Development Committee
- F. Facilities Committee
- G. Transition Team/Interim Team/Search Team

**Unfinished Business**

none

**New Business**

none

**Executive Session**

Motion to move into Executive Session was made by Trustee Fulce, seconded by Trustee Soto and approved by roll call vote in order to approve closed session minutes for distribution.

The motion to end the Executive Session was made by Trustee Shubet seconded by Trustee Fulce and approved by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Soto and seconded by Trustee Fulce and approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Terry Soto