



MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Meeting of the Board
6:30 PM
Virtually, via Zoom

As the result of an executive order issued by Governor J.B. Pritzker suspending in-person attendance requirements for public meetings due to COVID-19, City Council members and City staff will be participating in this meeting remotely.

Due to public health concerns, residents will not be able to provide public comment in-person at the meeting. Those wishing to make public comments at the Library Board meetings may submit written comments in advance or sign up to provide public comment by phone or video during the meeting by completing the online form at <https://library-board-public-comment-sign-up>.

Members Present: Tracy Fulce, Adam Goodman, Rachel Hayman, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Benjamin Schapiro and Terry Soto

Members Absent: Ruth Hays

Staff Present: Karen Danczak Lyons, Lea Hernandez-Solis, Teri Campbell, Jill Skwerski, Jill Schacter and John Devaney

Presiding Member: Shawn Iles, President

Call to order/Declaration of Quorum: President Iles called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was established at 6:37 p.m.

Citizen Comment:

Linnea Latimer thanked the Board of Trustees for the apology and equity statement, acknowledging the library's role in disenfranchising Evanston's black residents and the stated commitment to make continual improvement.

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the January 20, 2021 Board Meeting

Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Goodman, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Together, We are the Library

Proclamation

The Board of Trustees acknowledged the service of Trustee Denia Hester since 2019 with a proclamation thanking her for advocacy and leadership, with best wishes for the future.

Strategic Planning

Executive Director Danczak Lyons provided an update on the community survey and planned community conversations in order to include the ideas and feedback of many voices hoping to reach underserved residents.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Joint Task Force):**A. Joint Task Force (Update)**

Teri Campbell reported that internal working committees continue to focus on communication between depts, strengthening equity in programs and services with an assessment tool; and ongoing racial equity training hosted by an expanded corps of facilitators. The external Racial Equity Task Force worked on strategies to ensure the inclusion of our priority populations, and discussed items of high importance to the community such as the return to in-person schooling, covid vaccine hesitancy, and a future connection with the collection advisory committee. Jill Skwerski updated Trustees on the Mayor's taskforce of those asked to find solutions to communicating clear information about obtaining the vaccine locally, and questions about the safety of the vaccine itself. Trustees inquired about EPL's role in providing resources and hosting dialogue on matters of the vaccine.

B. Report on 2020 EPL EDI efforts (Distributed in Advance)

No questions were raised about this report.

Library Director's Report:

Jill Schacter provided an overview of the kick-off meeting with a well known marketing/ advertising firm who supplied a team of department leaders to collaborate on a soon to be identified project with EPL. This initial meeting included staff and external committee members.

Staff Report:**A. Administrative Services Report**

Campbell provided an overview of the hiring activity, financial health and facility improvements happening over the last month. President Iles inquired about the status of the City of Evanston co-locating in the Main Library. To date, EPL has not received a proposed revision to the existing Memorandum of Understanding. John Devaney reported that conversations around 3rd floor electrical engineering are starting.

Board Development:**A. ILA Legislative Meetup observations**

Trustees Hayman and President Iles reported that state legislators are very aware of the esteem with which library services are held in their communities, and that they heard concern around library closures during the pandemic. State leaders agree that libraries are underfunded in comparison to their value, and that increases to the Per Capita calculation are under consideration. Expanded broadband access proposals for rural and urban settings are included in the latest version of the Congressional Covid19 bill with hopes that it is found in the final approved legislation.

Unfinished Business: Approval of State Per Capita Grant Application (For Action)

Upon motion made by Trustee Hayman and seconded by Trustee Lurie, the State of Illinois Per Capita Grant application was approved for submission by unanimous roll call vote.

New Business:**A. Approval of 2020 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (For Action)**

Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Fulce, the Illinois Public Library Annual report was approved for submission by unanimous roll call vote.

B. Closed Session – Personnel (Library Director Evaluation and Contract)

Upon proper motion made by President Iles seconded by Trustee Lurie and approved by unanimous roll call vote, the Trustees commenced closed session discussion of a personnel matter.

Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Lurie and seconded by Trustee Schapiro and approved by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Submitted by: Terry Soto / Teri Campbell