

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

of the Edwardsville Public Library
Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Edwardsville Public Library

Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Robert LaRose called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Robert LaRose, President
Jessica DeSpain, Vice President
Kim Harrison, Secretary
Gary Denué
Michael McLean
Rob Nunn
Francie Powell

Board Members Absent:

Ryan Jumper
Jamie Pence

Staff Present:

Diana Brawley Sussman, Library Director

Guests Present:

Kathryn Biarkis and Suzanne Oberholtzer of the Edwardsville Historic Preservation Commission.

Public Comment

None.

Disposition of Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of July 26, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Jessica DeSpain moved to approve the minutes. Francie Powell seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

Communications

None.

Presentation to or discussion with the Board

1. Proposed landmarking of Miriam McKinnie murals.

Guests representing the Edwardsville Historic Preservation Commission discussed the library's four Nursery Rhyme murals, painted by Miriam McKinnie. The artist was part of the Federal Art Project, which became the WPA. Miriam McKinnie was an Edwardsville resident. The benefit of landmarking the art is that the library would be preserving artwork, particularly by a local female artist of historic significance. It involves a three step process: The application goes through two committees, then City Council. There would be no cost to the library to apply. If landmarked the library would be obliged to go through an approval process for alterations, moving the artwork to another site, donating them to another entity, etc. The library could put a rider on their insurance policy. That would be an ongoing expense. Miriam McKinnie has two murals at the Smithsonian. We are not sure of the value of the library's murals. We would need an appraisal. The Board asked whether the murals could be moved to another space within the library. Would the murals always have to be displayed? The Board's main concern is the fiscal responsibility to repair or preserve

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them. Something in writing to clarify that responsibility would be useful. Robert LaRose suggested that we could take other steps to acknowledge the importance of the murals and a commitment to ensure their future care. The concern is that if a restoration or repair cost tens of thousands of dollars, that might not be the best use of library tax dollars. The group has never landmarked two-dimensional artwork before, so some questions remain, while there may be some room to set parameters that could be amenable to the Library Board, and to set a precedent for landmarking future two-dimensional artwork in the community.

Committee Reports

1. Facilities

- I. Action on contracting services for roof repair. Kim Harrison made a motion to work with Berko Construction as long as the price does not exceed \$30,000. If the price has increased, the Director is to ask Matt Taul to work with Berko Constuction to perhaps use his subcontractor quotes, or work with Matt Taul to directly supervise the project in lieu of contracting the work to Berko. Rob Nunn seconded. Roll was called. The MOTION passed unanimously.
- II. Alarm system. The library will be moving to the city's contracted alarm monitoring system.
- III. HVAC. The Director reviewed issues the library has faced this summer regarding frequent air conditioning outages when there are power failures.
- IV. Meeting room remodel. The remodel is substantially completed.
- V. Other. None.

2. Personnel

Executive Session: [*The Board may go into closed session to consider employment/appointment matters. [5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) The Library Board reserves the right to return to open session to act on these matters.*]. No discussion. The Board did not enter executive session.

3. Policy

- I. Public Comment Statement. Rob Nunn moved to adopt the statement with one edit (adding and/or to the last sentence). Francie Powell seconded. Roll was called. MOTION passed unanimously.

4. Finance

- I. Approve Prepaid Bills and Bills to City Clerk. Rob Nunn moved to approve payment totaling \$108,739.04. Michael McLean seconded. Roll was called. MOTION passed unanimously.
- II. Approve Bills to City Clerk totaling \$34,046.96 Rob Nunn moved to approve payment. Gary Denu seconded. Roll called. Roll was called. MOTION passed unanimously.
- III. Review financial statements. The Board will need to see revenue by next month.
- IV. Credit cards. The library will switch from Bank of America credit cards to the city's cards in order to facilitate easier bill pay and to make credit card purchases more identifiable on financial reports.

5. Nominating. None.

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6. Executive. None.
7. Ad Hoc Committees. None.

ELF Liaison

The ELFs had six new volunteers reach out to them in response to the library's recent social media posts.

Library Director's Report

Nothing in addition to the content listed elsewhere on the agenda.

Unfinished Business

1. Opera Edwardsville application for after-hours use of patio presentation room. Francie Powell moved to approve the application. Kim Harrison seconded. MOTION passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Appointment of FOIA and OMA Officers; FOIA/OMA Training. Francie Powell moved to appoint Robert LaRose as the OMA Officer and the Director as FOIA officer. Rob Nunn seconded MOTION passed unanimously.
2. Banned patron's request. The Board agreed by consensus to keep the person banned.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kim Harrison, Secretary

Prepared by: Diana Brawley Sussman, Library Director

If prospective attendees require an interpreter or other access accommodation, please contact the Edwardsville Public Library Director at 618-692-7556 ext. 8 no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting to arrange the accommodations.

Board Meetings for 2023. All meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the library: January 25, February 22, March 29, April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27, October 25, November 29, 2023 (no meeting in December).