

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**July 16, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Spokane Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 in-person at South Hill Library with virtual access via Zoom meetings.

Present were:

MEMBERS

Mr. Gary Stokes, Chair of the Board
Ms. Shelby Lambdin, Vice Chair
Ms. Dani DeJaegher - Absent
Mr. Lara Hemingway - Absent
Ms. Mari Margil

COUNCIL LIASION

Councilmember Paul Dillon

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mr. Andrew Chanse

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Mr. Stokes.

VISITORS

Denise Neujahr
Skyler Noble
Vanessa Strange
Amanda Donovan
Ashley Lock
Jason Johnson
Tara Neumann
Paul Chapin
Nicole Edwards
Caris O'Malley
Jennie Anderson
Natalie Hilderbrand
Mark Pond

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Lambdin moved to approve the motion. Ms. Margil seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 2024 BILLS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Ms. Lambdin moved to approve the motion. Ms. Margil seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Operations: The library can cover 140 days of operating costs in available cash and investments as of June. The Levy Lid Lift was received in May and we are on track to spend our current projected expenditure budget over resources of over \$900,000. Ms. Edwards covered the expenditure trend for each branch and department and total June expenditures for operations were \$910,968.

Bond: Ms. Edwards explained we paid Leone and Keeble for the Five Mile Kiosk and paid for work on the Indian Trail garden. The permit for the Nevada project was received this week, and we are nearly ready to break ground, pending on available Alpine Contracting staff to be relieved of other current jobs. Ms. Edwards shared other Business Office updates. No further questions.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chanse shared that a few staff attended American Libraries Association conference in San Diego. Mr. Chanse met with a leadership from Inland Northwest Behavioral Health who shared information with staff on how to work with people in crisis. Cooling Center hours were activated at Central Library in June. In DEI efforts, the team read *When Stars Are Scattered*, discussing life as a child in a refugee camp in Kenya. A resource list was made for Disability Pride Month. STAR Spotlight went to Mason Neil and Ryan Tucker for their work on the Let's Explore Spokane video series. Mr. Chanse planned to meet with teams instead of hosting upcoming office hours. The library began work with Ingram as a vendor for purchasing materials. The team continued to take part in the Mayor's budget discussion. The Library Board's finance committee met last week to go over options and proposals for the Mayor. No further questions.

COUNCIL LIASION REPORT

None

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Ms. Donovan explained the team went to American Libraries Association conference to accept three national awards and present for Springshare, the team's email vendor. Other highlights were covered for online engagement. The most popular post was the Free People Read Freely social media post with a 228 percent increase in engagement, although not all comments were positive. Mr. Stokes suggested an event idea. No further questions.

PROGRAMMING REPORT

Mr. Johnson shared information from June. Paw Patrol Storytime, Peers Empower Peers, the Northwest Poetry Salon, Summer Reading Kick-Off Parties, the police chief forum, among others. No further questions.

NEW BUSINESS

13a.: Budget Discussion with Mayor Brown

Mayor Brown made comment on how strong the library is and thanked the Spokane Public Library team. Mayor Brown explained why there is \$20-\$25 million deficit in the City's budget. She presented some of the complications with balancing the budget and how different departments are responding to a request to reduce their budgets by 10 percent. The Library and City Parks and Recreation were asked to present plans to reduce their budget by 5 percent.

Mr. Stokes asked if the library board will be able to decide where budget goes or if they can earmark things. Mayor Brown explained the board has autonomy with some constraints. There would be a dialogue regarding preferred ways to reach financial targets. Ms. Margil asked if there is a timeline for the process. Mayor Brown explained that the process was established during the last administration. She mentioned an upcoming public meeting devoted to budget, occurring July 18. These meetings are monthly and there is more explanation about the decision process at those. If the team sees efficiencies that can occur, then they should be implemented. Mayor Brown shared some potential examples of what items could be reduced. This decision would take place before December. The administration presents their proposal in early November. If Council puts the Sales Tax on the ballot, then the City will not know the decision until the election in November. Any reductions in force would take place with leadership and collective bargaining units. No further questions.

13b.: Startup Spokane – Mark Pond

Mr. Pond provided an overview of Startup Spokane and some of the foreseen changes for the events calendar on the website and what is needed to facilitate this. Mr. Stokes asked what the top three or four services have been for the calendar. Mr. Pond responded with the SPDC, Scorn, and SP3 Northwest. Mr. Chanse asked if any of these organizations would be interested in helping to pay for this. Mr. Pond shared that is the next step and he plans to workshop the idea with the community. No further questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public had the option to email trustee@spokanelibrary.org with any comments and none were received.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, 2024. Location will be at Central Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Secretary

Date

10/15/24