

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING****June 20, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Spokane Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 in-person at Central Library with virtual access via Zoom meetings.

Present were:

**MEMBERS**

Ms. Lara Hemingway, Chair of the Board  
Mr. Gary Stokes, Vice Chair of the Board  
Ms. Dani DeJaegher  
Ms. Mary Starkey  
Ms. Shelby Lambdin

**COUNCIL LIASION**

Councilmember Zack Zappone - Absent

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Mr. Andrew Chanse - Absent

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:34pm by Ms. Hemingway.

**VISITORS**

Penny Brown  
Nicole Edwards  
Paul Chapin  
Alan Wagner  
Tara Neumann  
Caris O'Malley  
Ashley Lock  
Amanda Donovan  
Vanessa Strange  
Steven Clark  
Shane Gronholz  
Jason Johnson  
Natalie Hilderbrand

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**APPROVAL OF May 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

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

### **APPROVAL OF May 2023 BILLS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Operations:** Ms. Edwards reported on the cash and investment trends and Library has enough cash and investments to pay 182 days of operating costs. We received Levy Lid Lift dollars, bond reimbursement dollars, and a market investment adjustment. May operating expenditures were \$1,106,944. In Business Office news, CXMs can now print waive reports from Folio for review before sending to Business Office. No further questions.

**Bond:** Ms. Brown explained there is an amendment with Spokane Arts being processed under the increased threshold authority to award Spokane Arts Fund the remaining public art budget and the agreement will be extended into mid-2024. All bond funds must be committed by way of contract or purchase order by mid-December. We will soon go to bid for the Nevada Street development. The budgets are currently estimated and will be rearranged once the bid is known. We will bring action to the board to asking approval to execute the contract. Mr. Stokes asked what the remainder of bond funds are. Ms. Brown explained why early estimating may not be accurate. Ms. Hemingway asked if the bid process is in addition to the allocated funds for the Nevada project. Ms. Brown said to look at this budget as \$2.3 million which are currently allocated across projects and can be reallocated via budget transfer. No further questions.

Ms. Brown mentioned the project at South Hill was waiting for a part for the air conditioning unit and Integrus requested a TCO extension to accommodate the delivery of this item, which will be in July. No further questions.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

None

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. O'Malley explained we signed an agreement with GSI for StartUp Spokane. Partnerships with the Carl Maxey Center were discussed. The Library reached an agreement with Spokane Transit Authority to provide students with bus passes through a new Rider's License program. We received a sizable grant from the Washington State Library and EBSCO to fund further development of FOLIO. Spokane Is Reading chose Kim Fu as their community read author which will happen in October. The Library participated in the Pride parade and shared a list of different Pride reads for different age groups.

In staffing, Youth Services Manager Katie Rickard left and recruitment for her position is underway. Staff has engaged in a DEI book discussion for the *What We Don't Talk About When We Talk About Fat* by Aubrey Gordon. STAR Spotlight went to Shane Sponcler. We are working with the City to better navigate Spokane Falls Boulevard. Mr. Chanse continues to try and get clarity around the City's plan for cooling centers.

## COUNCIL LIASION REPORT

None

### COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Ms. Donovan shared the new Lilac City Local magazine for adults with narrative stories. Beanstack and Summer Reading launched. Talking points were provided for staff about Pride Month. Earned media included stories about the Spokane Civics Salon and Spokane Zine Fest. Ms. Hemingway asked where people can find the Lilac City Local. Ms. Donovan explained they are in all library locations, and it will be online. Mr. Stokes asked how many staff participated in the Pride parade. Mr. Johnson answered 17. No further questions.

### PROGRAMMING REPORT

Mr. Johnson shared statistics on programming in May. The value score was still being developed because some factors about youth programming were not being accounted for. South Hill overtook Liberty Park in programming attendance, and Central has the most programming attendance. Highlights included Make a Wind-Powered Lego Car had 142 participants, the Lullaby Project was in partnership with Spokane Symphony and Carnegie Hall to compose lullabies for kids, and Zine Fest had roughly 600 people in attendance. Other programs were highlighted as well. No further questions.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **13a.: Formal Bid for Nevada Street Development - Caris O'Malley**

Mr. O'Malley shared the next steps in the Nevada development. In February, the Board approved further investigation of how to engage that space. Potential designs were shared for the space. Ms. Hemingway asked if the chickens mentioned in the coop design would be a part of the Library of Things. Mr. O'Malley shared this will be discussed.

We request approval to proceed with the formal bid process for the development of the Nevada Street property.

Ms. Starkey asked about climate control in the dome and greenhouse. Mr. Clark explained it will be ventilated and, depending on how it was built, could react to the temperature appropriately. Mr. Stokes asked if solar panels could be used to retain heat. It is possible and solar would need to be investigated. Ms. DeJaegher asked what the future hope of the site would be. Mr. O'Malley explained it will be like another Hive building. More community outreach needs to be conducted to fit the needs of the north side of Spokane. Ms. DeJaegher asked how The Hive was developed. Mr. O'Malley explained that during outreach, we received a lot of requests for public space and when we were talking with Spokane Public Schools, they needed a teacher training facility. Ms. DeJaegher likes the idea and was wondering if more partnership could be put into the design. Mr. O'Malley affirmed this space would be made in partnership and adapted as time goes on. Ms. DeJaegher asked if user needs will be brought into the space. Mr. O'Malley answered there would be more internal expertise regarding the functionality of the building and the building will be in a temporary state while we conduct more research. Ms. Hemingway asked about the parking lot and how much this would cost. Mr. O'Malley explained around 1 million dollars would be dedicated to this project and three-quarters of it will be around infrastructure. Ms. DeJaegher asked if the parking lot will

accommodate the space. Mr. Clark confirmed the parking lot will support programming. Ms. Lambdin asked what the temperature would be inside the dome when ventilated. Mr. Clark explained it is unknown as the space is a greenhouse, but it may be an ambient temperature. Mr. Clark added there would be temperature-control for storage and the restroom. The dome in Aarhus Denmark was discussed. Mr. Stokes asked how large the blueprint would be. Mr. Clark said 2,000 feet, or a 50-foot diameter. Comments were made about the attention the dome would attract were made. Ms. DeJaegher asked if it could resemble the shape of the Pavilion. Ms. DeJaegher asked about renting a plot and the care a chicken would need. Mr. O'Malley explained the thought behind the rental process. No further questions.

Ms. Starkey moved to approve request to proceed with the formal bid process for the development of the Nevada Street property. Mr. Stokes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **13b.: Staff Association Event, Early Library Closure - Alan Wagner**

Board approval to close all Libraries at 4pm on August 11 for a staff event. All Libraries would normally close at 5pm on this date. Ms. Starkey moved to approve the motion. Ms. DeJaegher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **13c.: Current Affairs Specialist Overview – Shane Gronholz**

Mr. Gronholz presented an overview of his experience, his job position, and programs he has hosted thus far. Mr. Stokes asked what civics are. Mr. Gronholz answered it can mean political engagement or a topic of conversation. No further questions.

### **13d.: Summer Reading Overview – Skyler Noble**

Ms. Noble shared an overview of this year's Summer Reading program. Mr. Stokes asked about the age range of Summer Reading. Ms. Noble explained Summer Reading is for all age groups. Ms. DeJaegher expressed her approval of Beanstack. More discussion occurred about how Beanstack is a good way to engage the community. Ms. Hemingway asked how we promoted Beanstack. Ms. Noble explained how the team did a soft launch of the program in May to start getting people enrolled and aware of its availability. No further questions.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public had the option to email [trustee@spokanelibrary.org](mailto:trustee@spokanelibrary.org) with any comments and none were received.

### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Location will be at The Hive.



**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman, Board of Trustees \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_