

MAUD PRESTON PALENSKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 27, 2023
DRAFT

Call to order: Board President Ren Baldwin (City of St. Joseph) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Other board members present: Vice President Melissa Clapper (St. Joseph Township); Secretary William Ast (City of St. Joseph); and Betty Mundy (St. Joseph Township), Kathy Buursma (City of St. Joseph), Mimi Elwell, (St. Joseph Township), Patrice Rose, (St. Joseph Township), and Barbara Thompson (City of St. Joseph).

New board member: Baldwin introduced the board's new member, Emily Zito-Desimonte. She will fill "a long awaited position" as treasurer, he said. That position has been vacant for some time, he added.

Also present: Library Director Paula Stakley; Curtis Osmun, library systems supervisor; Virginia Antonson of the Friends of the Library; Rebecca Marsden, president of the Friends of the Library; Glenn Lange; and by remote, Nicole Gibby.

Minutes: Clapper moved to approve the minutes of the May 23 regular meeting, and Elwell supported the motion. The board in a unanimous vote approved both sets of minutes, as corrected.

Friends of the Library: Antonson complimented the board on "how beautiful the landscaping looks in the garden." The board had recently approved work being done on the garden.

Antonson reported on Friends' funding being used for the library's summer programming activities. The Friends are still considering a new bicycle rack, though that's going to be "very costly," she added.

Antonson noted she always departs from the meeting as soon as her report is finished, but said the Friends are considering having a member also attend and stay for the entire meeting. Antonson left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Bills: Buursma moved to approve the library's monthly bills in the amount of \$16,903.54. Mundy seconded the motion, and the board voted unanimously to approve paying the bills.

Financial report: Rose moved to approve the financial report, and Buursma supported the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the report.

Budget amendments: Clapper moved to approve budget amendments for the 2022-23 fiscal year, and Elwell supported her motion. The board in a unanimous vote approved the motion.

Following the vote, Thompson questioned whether the board can legally have funds handled by the Berrien Community Foundation. She said it is "not a financial institution," such as a bank or credit union, and added she would like a legal opinion on the matter.

"I'm not completely convinced of that," Baldwin said about Thompson's doubts.

Thompson, stating she manages her own investment portfolio, said she isn't happy with the way the Foundation is handling the library's funds.

"It has a poor track record," Thompson said. ... "When I looked at some of the investments, I wasn't too pleased, not pleased at all. I don't like losing money."

Director's report: Stakley described attending, along with four staff members, the American Library Association annual conference in Chicago on June 24. She said it was a highly successful and useful experience.

The Bridgman District Library has "removed themselves from the Red Arrow Shared Catalog" program, Stakley said, adding she doesn't know whether the Lincoln Township Public Library "is very far behind."

Summer reading "is off to a great start," with "74 teens registered for the reading program, Stakley said. The children's department has "201 plus an additional 91 tweens," she added.

Stakley said the donations funding the Hoopla streaming service has been "exhausted," and asked whether the board wishes to continue offering the highly popular service. Baldwin said a benefactor "has indicated that she might be willing to do other things" that might include Hoopla funding.

Marsden said she uses Hoopla, and "didn't know I was costing the library money."

Stakley said "it's been a wild month for staffing," with resignations including administrative assistant Sue Morgan, her "office buddy for many years." That position will be posted, she added.

Stakley said she has "hired three new pages."

Elwell moved to accept the director's report, and Mundy seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Adjournment: Ast moved to adjourn the meeting, and Elwell seconded the motion. Baldwin declared the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary William F. Ast