

Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2017

1. Call to Order 7:12 PM by Frank Sosnowski, Board President
Present: Vice President Ron Kangas, Treasurer Mary Beth Kane, Trustee Elizabeth Campion, Trustee Eric Walton. Library Director Kristen Valyi-Hax
Guests: City Manager Randy Skotarczyk, George McMullen, five youth members of the community.
2. Approval of Meeting agenda. Elizabeth Campion motioned to approve. Mary Beth Kane seconded. All in favor.
3. Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2017. Mary Beth Kane moved to approve, Frank Sosnowski seconded. All in Favor.
4. City Manager Report: Randy Skotarczyk shared concerns about the Harper Woods budget for 2018.
 - A. The residential recovery remains on track, but the commercial market has not grown since it dropped during the recession. Eastland Mall is in foreclosure so together this causes serious concern for the city revenue. These concerns necessitate stringent fiscal responsibility.
 - B. To aid recovery the city is working hard on the Kelly Road Redevelopment plan to bring new business to the city. They are also applying for CDBG grant money to aid in this redevelopment. CDBG money could also be used to purchase abandoned homes and rehab them for sale.
 - C. The library budget has been stressed by the flooding from the summer of 2016. Skotarczyk proposes cutting the library programming budget and combining programming with the Recreation Department budget while also looking for more revenue sources for the library.
 - D. The budget stresses further mean that city employees will have to go at least one more year without raises.
 - E. Kristen Valyi-Hax has admirably demonstrated her ability to come up with creative solutions to do the best for the library within the constraints of the budget. When a library employee left, Skotarczyk initially said there was a hiring freeze. But Kristen Valyi-Hax was able to demonstrate how she could hire a new person and still save the city money.
5. Reports
 - A. Board President's Report: Frank Sosnowski continued to visit the library weekly and is pleased with what he has seen.
 - B. Treasurer's Report: 41.3% of the budget has been spent for the year which is on track. Repairs are way over cost due to the necessary cost of new toilets. Kristen Valyi-Hax had been told she was way over budget but she realized a lot of the deficit comes from a loss in Tax Tribunals. She is working to rectify this situation.
 - C. Staff Reports: Submitted on paper. Kristen Valyi-Hax added that she is being transparent with staff about the budget crunch. She has let them know that it is important to be careful with all expenditures at this time.
6. Ongoing Business

- A. Strategic Planning: Kristen Valyi-Hax was recently learning about the Suburban Library Cooperative Plan Survive, Strive, Thrive. She thinks this may be an excellent focus for the Strategic Plan. In August Kristen Valyi-Hax will present a new plan and meeting schedule for the board, community, and staff.
- 7. New Business: None
- 8. Call to Board:
 - A. Ron Kangas inquired about how the library selects and purchases books and other materials. The director briefly outlined the process of using journals and other selectors along with vendors.
 - B. Eric Dalton inquired if the library holds used book sales. The Friends of the Library hold book sales in April and September, and offer an Artisan Market in November.
- 9. Public Comment: No comment
- 10. Adjournment at 8:34 PM by Board President Frank Sosnowski