

Harper Woods Library Board of Trustees
August 15, 2019

1. Call to Order: 7:02 PM by Frank Sosnowski, Board President
Present: Frank Sosnowski, Mary Beth Kane, Treasurer; Veronica Salciccioli, Elizabeth Campion Trustees; Kristen Valyi-Hax Director.
Absent: Eric Walton, Vice President
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda: Elizabeth Campion made a motion to approve the agenda; Mary Beth Kane seconded the motion. All in favor.
3. Approval of Minutes.
 - A. June 20, 2019 board meeting. Elizabeth Campion made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction made. Veronica Salciccioli seconded. All in favor.
 - B. June 28, 2019 special meeting. Frank Sosnowski made a motion to approve, Mary Beth Kane seconded. All in favor.
4. Reports
 - A. Board President's Report: Frank visited weekly and everything was running smoothly. He also attended National Night Out and spoke to many people about the library
 - B. Treasurer's Report: Presented on paper, Kristen Valyi-Hax adds that she attended the last City Council meetings where there was a presentation on the recent city audit. The financial health of the city has improved considerably although it is still a concern.
 - C. Staff Reports: On paper
5. Ongoing Business
 - A. Strategic Plan: Working on a schedule to present the Strategic Plan to the Board in November.
 - B. ConnectED: now named Virtual Library Card: Kristen Valyi-Hax had expected to hear from the Harper Woods Superintendent Steven McGhee so she will follow up to set up a meeting with him and Suburban Library Cooperative to arrange the logistics. Veronica Salciccioli suggests visiting the next School Board Meeting.
 - C. Bequest: The library received \$34,000 from the estate of Helen Cherensky. In her will she requested the money be spent on items for children, and large type materials. The library would also like to get a paving stone and put a nameplate on all items purchased with the funds. It was also suggested to put an article in the next Harper Woods Library newsletter.
 - D. Policy Revision Meeting: The Policy Review Committee submitted their revised versions of the : Bulletin Board Use, Tutor Room Use, Check Acceptance Procedures, and Library Card Eligibility and Use policies for board approval. Mary Beth Kane made a motion to accept all revisions recommended by the committee. Veronica Salciccioli seconded the motion. All in favor.

6. New Business
 - A. Parks and Recreation Department and the Community Room. The Parks and Rec Dept. have been using the library Community Room for Tai Chi classes and they would like to continue to do this for the next year. It brings people to the library and fosters good will between departments but it also violates the Community Room Policy as it is currently written. After much discussion Elizabeth Campion made a motion to add a sentence to both sections A.4 and C.3 of the Meeting Room Policy which states: Exceptions for departments of the City of Harper Woods may be made at the discretion of the director. Mary Beth Kane seconded the motion. Frank Sosnowski, Mary Beth Kane, and Elizabeth Campion voted Aye. Veronica Salciccioli abstained.
 - B. SLC Central Purchasing: submitted on paper.
7. Public Comment and Call to Board combined: There was discussion of a recent incident in the library between staff and a mother with an autistic child, and the post the mother later made in an unofficial city Facebook group. Important notes from the discussion:
 - A. The library director acknowledged that the library staff need to be more aware of concerns of neurodivergent patrons to serve this population of the public more effectively. One possibility is to allow young patrons to use the Story Time room if it is unoccupied.
 - B. The library director had asked a board member to invite those concerned to the next board meeting to discuss their concerns. The board vice-president, Eric Walton, did so, and made an apology in the Facebook Group to the mother and apologized for staff behavior. The board treasurer, MaryBeth Kane followed up with a similar comment. However, neither of them spoke with staff first to establish that staff had made errors in their actions before making the apology. Staff members present at the meeting requested an apology. MaryBeth Kane apologized for not talking with the staff first.
 - C. Veronica Salciccioli wondered how the mother would like the issue to have been handled. Also, as a former special education educator, she noted that perhaps there were issues involved with the child's ability to be in a new place like the library for a long period of time.
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.