

**Rock Island Public Library Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 15, 2022**

**5:00 p.m.**

***Rock Island Public Library – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Downtown Library & via Teleconference***

**Type of Meeting:** Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

**Meeting Facilitator:** Eudell Watts III

**Call to Order:** President Eudell Watts III called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**Attendance:** Jo Noon, Deborah Freiburg, Elizabeth Russell (Via Teleconference), Pat Mahar, Jenni Swanson, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh (Via Teleconference); Angela Campbell, Library Director; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director; Lisa Lockheart, Publicity/Outreach Liaison; Malachi Kohlwey, Business Office & Facilities Director; Sam Baugous, RIHS Teen Advisory Member.

**Absent:** Karen Phillips, Jacki Nelson.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of February 15, 2022. Without any additions or corrections, President Watts advised the minutes be approved as written.

**Board Education:** Facilities Director Kohlwey discussed Chapters 5 and 6 of the *Serving Our Public IL Public Library Standards* and asked if the board had any questions. Facilities Director Kohlwey advised that a couple of items listed in the standards are currently being worked on by staff or in the Library's Strategic Plan as a future objective.

**Correspondence:**

- Praise for Karrah email
  - Board Members praised the great work that Karrah and our staff is doing.

**Committee Reports**

*Finance – Jenni Swanson*

Jenni Swanson made a motion to approve monthly bills for February in the amount of \$ 24,175.44. Debbie Freiburg seconded. After no further discussion, President Watts took a recorded vote: 6 ayes – Mahar, Noon, Freiburg, Swanson, Grandberry Pugh, Russell; 0 nays, motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds – Pat Mahar

The Building and Grounds committee agreed to set a meeting on April 28, 2022 at 11am. The meeting is set to review bid proposals.

Personnel & Policy – Debbie Freiburg

Debbie Freiburg and Director Campbell advised that the Personnel & Policy Committee meets on April 7, 2022 at 1pm to review Library policies.

Planning & Community Relations – Karen Phillips

No report from this committee.

Art – Pat Mahar

No report from this committee.

Foundation – Kathy Lelonek

Foundation Director Lelonek provided an update on the Capital Campaign. The Foundation will be sending out mailers for Birdies for Charity; the Birdies for Charity funds will go to the Library and help aid in making the Library fine-free! Additionally, Foundation Director Lelonek announced that the Food for Thought fundraiser will be on June 09, 2022 at Icons in Rock Island. The next meeting of the Foundation Board will be May 12, 2022 at 4pm at the Downtown Library.

**Administrator Reports**

Director's Reports & Statistics – Director Campbell advised that the construction management team for the Watts Midtown Library approved bids for the construction project and will be starting construction in the coming weeks. Additionally, Director Campbell added that the Director's Report will now include the Library's Strategic Plan items to track and share progress.

**Milan Blackhawk Area Public Library District**

Director Campbell advised that the next Milan Blackhawk Board meeting is on April 28, 2022 at 4pm at the Southwest Library.

**Unfinished Business**

1. COVID Mitigation Efforts – Discussion/updates – Director Campbell advised that the Library is working on scaling back its COVID mitigation efforts. Additionally, Director Campbell asked for the board's input on whether to begin accepting book donations from patrons. Director Campbell added that the Library does not have a lot of space to store donated items. After no further discussion, the board decided that the Library should begin accepting book donations; however, the Library can pause the acceptance of donations if the Library does not have proper space to store additional items. Director Campbell advised that the COVID Mitigation Efforts topic will be removed from Unfinished Business moving forward.

2. South Entrance Parking Lot – Facilities Director Kohlwey advised that the Library has sent over its third offer to procure the South Parking Lot and is currently waiting to hear back from the property owner.

### **New Business**

1. Debbie Freiburg made a motion to approve “Fine Free Fridays” throughout April 2022. Pat Mahar seconded. Director Campbell advised that the goal of “Fine Free Fridays” is to get Library items back and to clear accounts, so more patrons can come back and use Library services. After no further discussion, President Watts took a recorded vote: 6 ayes – Mahar, Noon, Freiburg, Swanson, Grandberry Pugh, Russell; 0 nays, motion carried.
2. The board discussed the nomination of officers, beginning May 1, 2022 (Voting will be in April). After no further discussion, the board nominated Jenni Swanson as President, Elizabeth Russell as Vice President, and Jacki Nelson as Secretary/Treasurer.

### **Information Sharing**

- Unique Management Report
- Staff Development Day Evaluations
  - The Library board discussed having available board members visit next years in-service day to introduce themselves to the Library staff.
- Spring 2022 Library Legislative Issues
- PrairieCat FY 2021 Annual Report
- CY 2021 RIPL Annual Outcomes Report
  - Director Campbell added that Publicity/Outreach Liaison Lockheart created handouts of the 2021 Annual Outcomes Report.

### **\*Closed Session – Not needed**

### **Announcements:**

- Eudell Watts III took a moment to thank Teen Advisory Member Baugous for attending the last few months and hopes to get him more involved at future meetings. Director Campbell added that he could provide input on the teen area of the new Watts Midtown Library when that future discussion takes place.
- Director Campbell added that the Library’s stats are improving and shared her excitement for the City hiring a new city manager.
- Pat Mahar asked about technology donation opportunities in memory of Lo Milani.

**Adjournment** – President Watts adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 19, at 5:00pm, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Downtown Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Malachi Kohlwey, Business Office & Facilities Director