

**Rock Island Public Library Board**  
**Building & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes**

August 15, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Downtown Library Community Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Type of Meeting: Board Building & Grounds Committee

Meeting Facilitator: Pat Mahar

I. Call to order

II. In Attendance – Pat Mahar, Jenni Swanson; Eudell Watts III, Deborah Freiburg, Jo Noon, Karen Phillips, Elizabeth Russell; Angela Campbell, Library Director; Kathy Lelonek, Foundation Director

Absent – Jacki Nelson, Dr. Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh

III. Public Comment – None.

IV. New Business:

1. Downtown Library Renovations – Discussion

Board President Swanson presented information about a recent budget meeting with the City that indicated there wouldn't be any gaming funds available for the Downtown renovation project in the foreseeable future. There may be available reserve funds, but that will not be known until late in 2023. Director Campbell handed out a chart of the capital improvement projects already submitted to the City for consideration. After a lengthy discussion of the library's budget situation, the group decided to wait until after the first of the year to revisit this project.

Prior to moving on to the next agenda item, Director Campbell solicited feedback about the potential of moving the Children's Library to the first floor as part of the Downtown renovation. The Board Members in attendance expressed mixed reviews of this idea, understanding the need to consolidate staffing areas, but also wanting to keep the uniqueness of the designated space. Director Campbell indicated these were the same concerns expressed by staff, with the many pros and cons for each option. Board member Mahar suggested hiring someone to do a building program to figure out functionality. There was no resolution about this topic, as members indicated they would think about it until a decision needed to be made next year.

V. Old Business:

1. Watts-Midtown Art Discussion Revisited

Board member Mahar gave some background of who he's been in contact with about this idea, looking for guidance from places like Quad City Arts and the Moline Public Library, who also displays art. Mahar believed we could find a curator for \$1-2k to work on a pilot

project for a year. Concern was raised about funding this position and how it would be incorporated into library staffing – who would be responsible for supervising, would they be insured/bonded if anything happened, are they contracted, and where would they work from? Mahar said he would need to look into these topics further, but suggested that it could be funded by doing a fundraiser or sponsorship of some sort.

Board Members Swanson and Watts did not feel this was something needed at this time, agreeing with Director Campbell that there needs to be some sort of proposal and timeline in place to tackle necessary policy and procedural changes, as well as budget and insurance considerations. The Committee agreed that this discussion should be tabled until January so that more information could be gathered. Mahar will continue doing reconnaissance on the idea.

2. South Parking Lot – Any updates? Due to the lack of time, Committee Members decided to discuss this at the Board Meeting.

3. ADA Audit Review – Did not get to this topic.

VI. \*Closed Session – Not needed.

VII. Information Sharing – None.

VIII. Announcements – None.

IX. Adjournment – 5:05pm

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Campbell, Library Director*