

Mount Pleasant Public Library: Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of May 19, 2022

Trustees & Liaisons present:

Dick Malina, Mary Ann Quinn, Julie Edwards, Marcie Krauss, James Riina, Rebecca Myers, Eric Neuman, Frank Casale, Donna Gambaccini, Thomas Sialiano (Town Liaison),

Also present: John Fearon, Library Director; Martha Mesiti, Assistant Library Director; Alex Kiffer, Reference and IT Librarian; Janet Green, Head of Children's Services.

Trustees & Liaisons absent : David Vinjamuri (Village Liaison),

Administrative: Trustee Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The minutes of the April 21, 2022, Board meeting were approved. Moved by Trustee Malina, seconded by Trustee Neuman, and passed.

Opportunity to Hear from the Public: Three Library staff members attended the meeting but offered no comments.

Claims of Payment

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Myers, and seconded by Trustee Edwards, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Town Comptroller be authorized to:

- Pay all vouchers reviewed and approved by the Director and the Comptroller, for the month of May 2022, for a total of \$68,356.88

202205-01 The motion passed.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Neuman, and seconded by Trustee Myers, that:

It is hereby resolved that:

The Library Board of Trustees has reviewed the Library's existing book-sale process, in light of the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and anticipated changes in the design and service offerings of the Library. In addition to reviewing the history of book sales at the Library and the current challenges that the Library faces, the trustee group also considered the practice of other public libraries in the county, and looked to the future, where significant changes are expected to result from the Library's Master Planning Process.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the Friends of the Library for their efforts over the years in support of the Library. The Friends have made possible many services and improvements to the Library, and the Board of Trustees wishes to see this relationship continue.

Several factors, however, including those we have detailed, require the Board to change the process supporting the book sale:

1. The Board can accommodate a book sale in the Community Room, to be held over the two-week period from September 7-20, 2022, or alternatively from September 14-27. During this time, the Friends will have use of the Community Room and of their current book room. The Board expects the sale to run from start to finish within this two-week period, encompassing public donation days, sale days, and final cleanup.
2. At the conclusion of the book sale, the Library will reclaim the book rooms that were previously allocated to the Friends. In the short term these spaces are needed for Library supplies and program preparation; in the long term it is anticipated they will be part of a major reconfiguration of the Library that will see new meeting spaces created for the public. The Friends can retain the second book room through September; after that the Library will need to take possession.
3. The Board recognizes that initially, at least, this change in the book-sale process will be a difficult transition for the Friends. The Board values the book sale – as do the Friends. But it also believes that this new approach, in being less labor and space intensive, will be more sustainable in the long term for both the Friends and the Library and that it will help to ensure that this community tradition continues.

202205-02 The motion passed.

Directors Report

Town Engineer David Smyth has prepared specifications for a major capital project to address the drainage problem at the Library. These urgently needed repairs will reconfigure the drainage along the Library's southern and western walls and will entail a considerable amount of disruption, as well as expense.

Director Fearon discussed the Trustee committee's review of the book sale process and the recommendations outlined in tonight's resolution 2. Given continuing pandemic requirements and the Library's anticipated redesign and renovation in the next few years, the Library can authorize an abbreviated book sale for this September, but it cannot make further commitments at this point.

The Library's attorney has advised against signing a contract with the vendor for the proposed Ethnographic Project, which aims to identify underserved populations and improve Library outreach to all. Upon reflection, the Library administration feels that there may be more effective ways to address outreach than through design. The Library might undertake a similar project in the future, but it doesn't need to run in conjunction with the master plan.

Director Fearon discussed provisions of the new New York State law concerning hybrid meetings. In short, if the Library allows access through a remote link, the public must also have clear access through the link. In addition, it is necessary that a quorum of trustees (5 trustees) be present on site for a hybrid meeting to occur. Meetings must also be recorded, and the recordings posted following the meeting.

Presentation: Janet Green, Head of Children's Services

Janet Green discussed some of the ways new program initiatives and staff are energizing the Library's Children's Services. It is great to have children back in the library – and outside – and attention, focus, and resources are making a big difference in fostering connections with the library and with staff. There are now three librarians who are Spanish-bilingual; other staff are now successfully participating in Story Hours. Children's Services is trying to promote the Branch as a special, different place to go, and the Summer Reading Program kick-off will be split between the Library and the Branch. In addition to building up the Summer Reading Program, which declined during the pandemic, Ms. Green hopes to re-establish homework help in the fall and to prioritize programming for Young Adults.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Quinn, and seconded by Trustee Riina, that:

It is hereby resolved that the following personnel items be approved:

- Lucille Kenny be appointed to the position of Substitute Library Clerk, effective 05/19/2022, at the rate of pay stated in the 2022 Authorized Personnel Salary Schedule

- Maria Blace be appointed to the position of Substitute Library Clerk, effective 05/23/2022, at the rate of pay stated in the 2022 Authorized Personnel Salary Schedule
- Clarification: Daphne Revie has been appointed to the position of Hourly Children's Librarian on Step 7 of the hourly rate of pay stated in the CSEA Agreement Salary Schedule for 2022

202205-03 The motion passed.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Edwards, and seconded by Trustee Myers, that:

It is hereby resolved that PLY knitting group be allowed to meet more than four times at the Library in 2022

202205-04 The motion passed.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Gambaccini, and seconded by Trustee Casale, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Library Board of Trustees accepts the 2021 Audit

202205-05 The motion passed.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Neuman, and seconded by Trustee Malina, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Library Board of Trustees approves the following:

When appropriate, the Board of Trustees authorizes the use of videoconferencing to allow for remote meetings under the terms of the New York State law introduced on April 9, 2022: Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 relating to the New York State budget for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year.

202205-06 The motion passed.

Trustee Quinn moved for adjournment at 7:53 pm, seconded by Trustee Edwards.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, June 16, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Quinn, Secretary