

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: June 11, 2024

TIME: 6:37 p.m.

PLACE: Lingos Trustee Room & Zoom

PRESENT: Jocelyn Meek, Chairperson; Margaret Mone; Lisa O'Donnell; Matthieu Delisme; Joseph Policape
& Paul Engle, Library Director
Zoom- Phyllis Ellis & Aminah Pilgrim

ABSENT: Jorge Vega, Vice Chair;

VISITORS: Frank Ciafella; Malice Veiga

RECORDING: Sandra Reed

TOPIC/AGENDA	FINDINGS/DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW-UP
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1. Hearing of Visitors

Frank spoke about his continued concerns about the Library Foundation. The library is facing a huge budget cut and people might think the library has backup with the Foundation, but he does not believe that is the case. He believes that the level of commitment & dedication to the library is just not there. Cuts are going to negatively affect certification and it doesn't send a good message.

Frank is thinking of filing a complaint against the Foundation for not spending funds. He believes they are fraudulently soliciting funds. (Website and pamphlets say they help support programs, museum passes etc and they do not) He believes there is a perception from the community that they have helped renovate the roof at the main branch, when they did not.

Think of other ways to creatively come up with funds and not rely on the Foundation

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Approval of minutes from May 14, 2024 as submitted.

Approval of minutes by Lisa O'Donnell, second by Phyllis Ellis; voted unanimous

3. Chairman's Report - None

4. Director's Report - None

5. FY 25 budget discussion **Invited:** CFO Troy Clarkson

1) Paul created a spreadsheet to compare every city department. Library was the sixth highest percentage cut. No other dept has sustained such a severe cut.

2) Paul had this meeting on a Tuesday and the mayor told him the library didn't sustain many cuts. When Paul met with Troy Clarkson, the next day (Wednesday) this is the budget he was given

3) With the Mayors proposed budget, \$556,714 cut, the library may not get certification from MBLC and it stands to lose \$350,000 annual funding without the certification.

4) Now, only the mayor can add funds back to the library budget, but he would have to take from somewhere else (political football). The city council could cut more. Council could reject the budget as a whole but unlikely. Paul has his budget hearing in front of the Finance Committee Monday June 17, 2024.

5) The Mayor and CFO are aware of the jeopardy these cuts have on library certification, Paul sent them an email at the end of May outlining the impact of cuts.

6) Paul talked to MBLC and they want to issue a waiver but the only issue they foresee is if the Mayor cuts the library disproportionately/unfairly. This seems to be our current situation

7) It is believed by some that the Mayor needs to be told in a way that hits home. Library cuts will impact the education of the City. This will feed into other issues and will adversely affect the community in so many ways.

Make bullet points to make sure the Mayor & Council know what the cuts will do. Branch closings and lose of programming-big ones

Lisa will try to get a meeting with the Mayor to verbally explain this as she does not believe he understands the magnitude of his cuts. All Trustees will call and email City Councilors to get the message out.

- 8) Foundation is non-committal and the Library cannot assume there will be any assistance from them.
- 9) Trustees discussed a plan on what to do as of July 1, were they have to assume the budget will be over \$800,000 less
- 10) Suspension of all paid programming will take effect July 1. The State Aid funds we currently have need to be kept in case of emergencies. There is no line in the city budget for programs, all of this gets funded through State Aid.
- 11) Recommended to close West starting July 1. With this budget we do not have enough staff to cover all three branches. West is more transportation stable than the East branch.

Motion to close West starting July 1 by Phyllis Ellis, second by Joseph Policape; voted unanimous

<u>TOPIC/AGENDA</u>	<u>FINDINGS/DISCUSSION</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS</u>	<u>FOLLOW-UP</u>
6. Old Business -NONE			
7. New Business- NONE			
8. Executive session (as needed)			
9. Adjournment	Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 pm	Motion by Phyllis Ellis, second by Joseph Policape; voted unanimous.	