

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021**

Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm via Zoom teleconference.

1. Roll Call

The following board members were present and stated the locations from which they were attending the meeting: Joy Cichewicz, Sumpter Township; Mary Jane Dawson, Belleville; Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Van Buren Township (7:55 pm); John Juriga, Belleville; Sharon Peters, Van Buren Township; Linda Priest, Dallas, TX; and Tanya Stoudemire, Van Buren Township. Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy and Assistant Director Hilary Savage.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion by Juriga, seconded by Dawson, to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Cichewicz, Dawson, Juriga, Peters, Priest, and Stoudemire. Nays: None. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Approve April 13, 2021 Minutes:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest, to approve the April 13, 2021, minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Cichewicz, Dawson, Juriga, Peters, Priest, and Stoudemire. Nays: None. The motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Public Comments:** None.

5. Committee Reports

- A. **Building:** After reviewing remaining capital project funding available, the committee voted to move forward with the proposed HVAC changes (\$326,416). The changes will not only help with COVID but will protect against allergens, viruses, molds, etc. The humidification system will also allow for a more comfortable building in the winter. John Juriga called Debbie Dingell's office regarding installing electric car charging stations in the parking lot.
- B. **Bylaws:** No report.
- C. **Finance:** Tanya Stoudemire presented the 9 month budgetary report. The 2021-22 library budget public hearing will take place at the June 8 board meeting. The finance committee will meet to discuss options for the renewal of the operating millage that is due to expire at the end of 2021.
- D. **Marketing:** Linda Priest was welcomed to the committee. They discussed ways to focus on more than the grand opening events. The grand opening and the donor reception will be delayed until 2022. The perennial plant swap was very successful, and the board is encouraged to help out with Lake Fest. Sharon Peters welcomed board efforts in helping to publicize events and encouraged them to give their ideas to the marketing committee.

E. **Personnel:** No report.

F. **Policy:** No report.

G. **Art:** Five sculptures from Howard Puchalsky have been placed in the children's room. Doug Peters received the oil painting from Sheena Barnes, wired the frame, and delivered the painting to the library. Winners from the last BACA art show will be the library's first display, once the art hanging system has been installed. The committee will meet on May 20 at 3 pm.

6. Approve Accounts Payable: Motion by Dawson, seconded by Stoudemire, to approve the accounts payable as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Cichewicz, Dawson, Hughes-Grubbs, Juriga, Peters, Priest, and Stoudemire. Nays: None. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Director's Report: See attached. Discussion ensued regarding the operating millage that is due for renewal. Consensus seemed to be to place it on the ballot in 2022. Although it would no longer technically be called a renewal in 2022, language could be placed on the ballot that describes the millage as replacing the operating millage that expired in 2021. Eighty percent of the staff have received at least their first dose of the vaccine, and COVID case numbers are dropping. The library is beginning to offer programming to take advantage its outdoor space including the second floor terrace. It is anticipated that the June board meeting will take place in person.

8. Trustee Comments:

Dawson – Appreciated everything the staff has been doing. Announced the proclamation by the President announcing that May 9-15 is National Law Enforcement Week. Shared that her neighbor borrowed her library card for an Owen Intermediate School scavenger hunt.

Cichewicz – Glad to see art being put up. Announced a current bill in the state legislature to change the number of elections per year from three (May, August, and November) to two (June and November).

Stoudemire – Thanked Mary Jo for helping to make her budget presentation easy. She hopes that the finance committee can meet in person.

Juriga – Thanked Mary Jo and stated that they could not have done the new building and transition without her. He also thanked the board for all the work that's been done on the library project.

Hughes-Grubbs – Was glad to hear that the plant swap went well. She thanked Barbara Miller for attending the meeting. She expressed hope that the next board meeting could be in person.

Priest – Will miss Zoom but will be happy to see everyone in person. Thanked Mary Jo for her efforts in keeping things moving forward.

9. Chair Comments:

Peters – Was happy to have her daughter and granddaughter visit two weeks ago. The highlight of their visit was going to the library. She commended librarian Nakenya Lewis-Yarbrough for helping them pick out books to read. She encouraged the board to visit the building, especially to look at the vegetative roof.

10. Adjournment:

Motion by Juriga, seconded by Priest, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:43 pm.