

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, John Juriga, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire. Absent and excused: Alma Hughes-Grubbs. Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy.
3. **Approve Agenda:**
Motion by Juriga, seconded by Priest, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approve April 11, 2023, Minutes:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Juriga, to approve the April 11, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments:** Garrett Kissel identified himself as the first firefighter from the Belleville Fire Department who was on the scene of the death that occurred at the library a few weeks ago. He was happy with the library's response and has been checking in with the staff to make sure they are ok.
6. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Building:** The committee will meet with the architect to see if there are any modifications that need to be made to the terrace.
 - B. **Bylaws:** No report.
 - C. **Finance:** The nine month financial statement was reviewed. The board will approve the 2023-24 Budget at their June 13 meeting.
 - D. **Marketing:** No report.
 - E. **Personnel:** No report.
 - F. **Policy:** Input has just been received from the library's attorney regarding the draft materials selection policy.
 - G. **Art:** The exhibit by Ed Goode is currently on display. The library is also a location for the DIA's InsideOut Art display.
7. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
8. **Director's Report:** See attached. Suchy expressed her and her staff's deep sadness over the apparent death by suicide by a patron that occurred on April 21. Suchy commended her staff for their skill and professionalism in a highly stressful situation.
9. **Trustee Comments:**
Cichewicz – Commended Hilary Savage, Sharon Peters, and the staff for their handling of this traumatic event.

Juriga – Thanked Garrett Kissel and the first responders.

Priest – Thanked all involved in their response to April 21. She shared that she was on a League of Women Voters panel regarding why she ran for public office (because she is passionate about the library).

Fleming – Thanked the first responders for their assistance and noted the good communication from Sharon and Mary Jo regarding the incident.

10. Chair Comments:

Peters – Praised Hilary’s efforts and response to the events of April 21. She thanked Mary Jo for the article in the board pack regarding libraries as critical social infrastructure. She shared that she has been volunteering at the Early Childhood Center in the infant room. Early childhood advocacy is important to her. She noted the many events that were going on in the library and community last weekend.

11. Adjournment:

Motion by Juriga to adjourn, seconded by Priest. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.