

DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 24, 2015

Call to Order: In Matt Rosendahl's absence, Dan D'Allaird called the meeting of the Duluth Library Board to order at 4:33 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015. On a motion by Ramsland, seconded by Oswald, the agenda was approved as amended.

Members Present: Megan Oswald, Dan D'Allaird, Sandy Scheiber, Virginia Katz, Betty Ramsland, Sister Edith Bogue

Also Present: Carla Powers, Jim Filby Williams, Joel Sipress

Absent: Matt Rosendahl, Frank Jewell

Minutes: On a motion by Katz, seconded by Oswald, the library board minutes of the regular meeting of October 27, 2015, were approved as amended.

Reports:

Friends of Duluth Public Library

Written report was reviewed. The Friends will host a book fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Barnes & Noble, and the Holiday Sale will take place Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 1-3 at Mt. Royal. The Friends anticipate lower revenue at the book fair due to not being able to promote their vouchers. Linda Hanson, former Friends president, has returned to the board and will be chairing the Author Series.

Duluth Library Foundation

Written report was reviewed.

Manager's Report

Written report was reviewed. Carla is in need of a board member for a branding session with Swim Creative meeting on Dec. 8 from 3-7 p.m. Bogue volunteered, noting that she may be called for jury duty that day and if so would get a sub.

Old Business:

Facility Planning Update

Jim Filby Williams spoke about the facility plan. He noted that a major focus right now is to ensure the new administration is fully informed of the process before taking office. Efforts are focused on exploring a mid-priced renovation of the current building, in the range of \$15-20 million. The first priority would be to secure the building envelope (windows, roof and cladding), replace building systems (HVAC, electrical, etc.), and use remaining dollars for targeted investments that improve services for the community. Filby Williams noted that the approach with the designers will be more limited and directed this time than it was with MSR's study. Filby Williams anticipates \$14-16 million will be needed for infrastructure work. He noted that a capital campaign run by the Friends or foundation would greatly impact the public value of this project. He thinks the community would favor a mid-level project instead of a new building or full scale redesign. Bogue and Ramsland expressed concerns about being able to meet patron needs within that price range, noting problems with HVAC and the difficulty of installing electrical outlets in the current building. Filby Williams stated that he thought the first plans showed a disconnect between the city's means and what the consultants presented. Katz raised the question of city bonding. Filby Williams stated that the city bonds every year, typically for \$1.5-2 million for capital projects. A larger bond is issued every decade or so, and the library would be on that order. State bonding is generally not available for public libraries. Spiress stated the he believes the council will ensure a functioning library, but a new library building is a difficult sell due to the impact on taxpayers. Sipress also suggested that, if a capital campaign was established, a high,

multi-million dollar goal could be considered to fund a larger project, rather than simply a mid-level renovation. The library board cannot do the fundraising, but can be advocates. Filby Williams estimated that \$50,000 would fund a feasibility study and asked whether that is within the current means of the Friends or foundation. Ramsland and D'Allaird replied that it is not. There was discussion of whether the problems with the current building have been overstated in the current process, and the consensus of the board is that the building has been dysfunctional from the beginning. Filby Williams advised that a mid-level renovation is likely to be the option favored by city administration and encouraged board members to advocate for this option.

Internet Policy

Bogue moved to accept the internet policy as revised, and Scheiber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning

Tabled until January meeting.

New Business:

Supported Self-Service Project

Tabled until January meeting.

Short Takes Videos

D'Allaird will ask Rosendahl to provide direction on how many episodes to watch for January meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.