

Approved 09/14/2017

Regular Meeting Minutes
Elk Rapids District Library Board of Trustees
August 10, 2017

1) The regular monthly meeting of the Elk Rapids District Library Board of Trustees was called to order by President Thom Yocum at 4:30 PM.

Members Present: Jane Stauffer, Rowland Johnston, Barbara Johnson, Judy Passon, Diane Geddes, Thom Yocum, and Nannette Miller, Library Director.

Members Absent: Ellen Welch and Jane Lund

Also Present: Sharon Bacon, representing the Friends. In addition, 10 interested citizens were in attendance:

2) Approval of Agenda

M/S by Geddes/Johnson to approve the agenda. **Approved.**

3) Approval of Minutes

M/S by Johnson/Stauffer to approve the July 13, 2017 minutes. **Approved.**

4) Public Comment (Limit 3 minutes for comment. Any questions from the public shall be submitted in writing, along with name and contact information. A response will be sent within 5 business days.)

a) Greg Reisig

Greg commented that a considerable number of citizens are opposed to the concept drawing for an addition to the library. He related how he got into the controversy over the possible expansion. For 10 years, he was the president of the Elk Rapids Historical Society. He has spoken with past board members of the Society, to relatives of Edwin Noble and other neighbors and they are all opposed to any change in the Island House.

b) Mary Lobisco

Mary pointed out that if the library were in any other building or any other part of town, they'd be perfectly fine with expanding the library.

c) Elaine Glowicki

Elaine asked whether or not the library had a Facebook policy. She said that such policies are becoming more common and provided each board member with a copy from Facebook.com of community standards pertaining to Facebook. President Thom Yocum said that the board would take a look at the standards.

d) Diane Richter

Diane related that, according to the library, a presentation was given to the Village Council to get approval to interview architects and to develop a procedure for the

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Library Improvement Project. Diane commented that Village Manager Bill Cooper didn't have any record of what was approved except for approval to explore the expansion of the ERDL facility. Diane maintained that we didn't get permission to interview architects. Bill told her that he didn't know the process, but assumed everything will be done in a public forum.

Tim Moeller

Tim pointed out that we are involved in an important controversy. He has a Plan B which he'd like to talk about. He requested to speak for over 3 minutes. The request was denied. Thom had agreed to meet with Tim earlier, but was unable to find time until next week. Thom guaranteed that he would look at the alternate proposal at some time in the future with Tim.

5) Treasurer's Report & Approval of Bills

M/S by Johnson/Passon to approve 28 checks numbered 27187 through 27214 written in July against the General Fund (with the exception of 27200 which was void). In addition, one EFT to the IRS and 2 debits for a total of 21 automatic payroll deductions were also made in July from the General Fund. **Approved.**

6) Correspondence:

A letter has been sent to the Personnel Committee and it will be discussed and acted upon. A meeting will be held next Monday and a written response will be sent to Greg Reisig.

Rowland sent an email to Harbormaster Eric Crissman regarding a fiber optic cable which the Harbor is installing which the library would like to tie into for an improved broadband connection.

7) Director's Report:

Report was as presented. Nannette noted that almost 7,000 patrons entered the library in July. The Junior Knight and Princess Quest was a big success. The library's presence in the Harbor Days Parade was also very well received.

8) Committee Reports

a. Policy: No Report

b. Finance: No Report

c. Planning:

Barbara reported that two meetings were held this month. The committee is compiling data and goals, using the Strategic Plan of 2014 as a starting point. They have discussed partnerships in the community, the library as community center, programming, collection development and technology. They are planning to attend the Mill Creek Elementary School Open House to let parents, students and teachers there know that they can now check out materials from the ERDL without paying the non-resident charge. The committee also plans to attend the Lakeland

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Elementary Open House. The next meeting will be held at the end of August. They will be developing a needs case for future library planning.

d) Personnel: No Report

9) Friends Report:

Proceeds from the Book Cellar were the highest ever this July. Wednesday Nights on River Street brought in \$800. Over 400 raffle tickets were sold and the winner for the painting was an Elk Rapids resident. Praise was received for the Junior Knight and Princess Quest and there was a very positive response to the library's parade presence. The next fundraiser will be the cooking class on September 14. A Business After Hours event will be held on October 19. The 2018 budget will include replacing one Early Learning Station for children.

10) Unfinished Business: None

11) New Business

a) Review Director Evaluation Process

The Personnel Committee will start reviewing the director evaluation form. Each board member and each staff member will get a form to fill out. Forms go out in October. All input goes to the Personnel Committee, they tabulate the evaluations and every board member gets a copy of the compiled data and comments. The final evaluation will be presented in January.

12) Board Comments

Greg Reisig

Greg commented that every other board he has known allowed comment during the agenda. He claimed that this library board is the only one that requires that questions be submitted in writing.

Diane Richter

Diane stated that the MSU Extension Service has recommended that boards today answer every public question. They also are encouraged to add an additional Public Comment time at the end of the agenda.

Nanette Miller and Barbara Johnson commented that Megan Olds was consulted about our board meeting procedure.

Diane Geddes suggested that we find a way to listen to Tim Moeller's comment, perhaps in a special meeting.

M/S by Johnston/Stauffer to allow Tim Moeller 15 minutes to present his Plan B to the board now as the meeting has not yet been adjourned. **Approved.**

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Tim Moeller

Tim spoke on behalf of his committee and supporters. He wished to present a plan that would be accepted by everyone in the community. He believed this plan would be a win/win proposition for the board and all those opposed to the current library expansion concept.

Tim first explained that the current concept under consideration (Plan A) would face many obstacles:

- 1) Opposition to expansion from citizens in the community. He reminded everyone that citizens on both sides of the issue should be respected (there are no “good guys” and “bad guys”). He feels that the board is underestimating how much opposition there is in the community. 50 yard signs opposing expansion were handed out and most were requested by people.
- 2) SHPO approval may be difficult to get. No plan will be presented to Council unless SHPO approves.
- 3) Village Council will probably vote either “no” or “go to a vote of the people next November”.
- 4) Village Planning Committee will need to issue a Special Use Permit. Another opportunity for public comment and lots of hoops to go through.
- 5) Fundraising must be done to raise approximately \$2 million.

Because of these challenges, Tim’s committee believes that Plan A would be difficult to achieve. Tim also advised the board that with digital technology libraries do not need that much space. Tim also mentioned that their group will interfere in every stage of this process, and he brought up the possibility of a lawsuit.

Plan B would be to consider a library annex at The Lighthouse owned by First Presbyterian Church. He stated that this building has 2,000 square feet upstairs and 2,000 square feet down. It could provide the space needed for what is planned for the library expansion. Tim asked that the library board take a look at the building and consider it as an alternate plan for improving the library.

Various board members and Nannette commented that the board had looked into this plan, but it would involve hiring more staff and the added expense of renting or purchasing the property. The board, however, will consider Tim’s suggestions.

13) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Thom Yocum at 5:30 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 14, 2017 at 4:30 PM in the library conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Passon for
Ellen Welch
Recording Secretary