

## Talcott Free Library Board Meeting

Monday, July 17, 2023

Members Present: L. Floto, D. Garlow, T. Garlow, Geddeis, Kovanda, Ragaller, Director Gove.

Member Absent: A. Floto

President Kovanda called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a roll call of members.

Public Comment: Ten community members signed up to comment. Geddeis moved, and Kovanda seconded, to increase the normal comment time to allow three minutes for each person who had signed up. Motion passed unanimously. Kovanda reiterated the guidelines governing comments. All commenters indicated that they were residents of the library district, except one who lives in Roscoe. He was allowed to speak also. Jessica Green presented a monetary gift without restrictions to the board. Geddeis responded to one speaker who made accusations against him. Kovanda interrupted to end that exchange. Public comment was ended with the reminder that the board meeting would proceed without further input from the public.

Appointment of Alicia Ragaller: T. Garlow moved, and L. Floto seconded, to appoint Ragaller to the unfilled seat on the board of trustees. Geddeis raised a question about the validity of the appointment process. Kovanda stated that Ragaller had never resigned, and therefore according to statute, she remains in office until someone else is elected or appointed. Geddeis moved to delay the appointment to allow other community members to express interest in serving on the board. The motion failed for lack of a second. There being no further discussion, Kovanda called for a roll call vote on the original motion. Motion was approved with 4 ayes and one nay (Geddeis). Ragaller took her seat at the table.

Secretary's Report: T. Garlow moved, and Ragaller seconded, to approve the report of the June 26 meeting as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: D. Garlow moved, and L. Floto seconded, to approve this report. Unanimous approval.

Librarian's Report: Ragaller moved, and Kovanda seconded, to approve the librarian's report and the payment of current invoices. Motion passed unanimously. Updates from the Director: 1) Approximately 725 patrons of all ages are enrolled in the summer reading program, "Find Your Voice." 2) About 150-200 patrons

participated in the Pool Party. 3) The Drag Q & A virtual event on July 14 had 74 patrons registered, with 49 logged in and approximately 60 participating. 4) Analysis and recommendations on the 113 E Main building inspection are pending. 5) The auditor has begun their review with Director Gove's assistance. 6) The IPLAR report will be addressed next month. Two board members are required to conduct an audit of the past year's secretary's reports.

Building and Grounds Report: Director Gove will be meeting with Scott from Garland Roofing this week for next steps to the bidding process.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: 1) Geddeis noted that board email addresses need to be revisited so that each member has access to any email addressed to the board in general. Director Gove will contact Peter to review this and estimate any added cost to the board. 2) The Paid Leave for All Workers Act provides for 1 hour of paid time off (PTO) per 35 hours worked. Director Gove proposes a policy to cover all employees that are not currently qualified for sick/vacation time. The policy should be effective as of July 1 to correspond with our fiscal year. D. Garlow moved, and Geddeis seconded, to lay this matter over to the next meeting for further consideration. Motion approved unanimously. 4) Geddeis suggested that due to public concerns about age-appropriateness of Young Adult materials, we might consider splitting the Teen Advisory Board into two groups, by age, and to limit access to materials according to age. 5) Geddeis noted that one of the duties of the Vice-President is to conduct an annual review of all the bylaws. This has not been done recently. L. Floto noted that when changes to bylaws became advisable, the board has routinely made policy changes on a case-by-case basis.

Geddeis moved, D. Garlow seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. Adjournment at 8:13 p.m.

Submitted by L. Floto, Secretary