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HELEN M. PLUM MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
411 S. Main St • Lombard, IL 60148

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2023
7:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room

- I. Call to order
 - a. President Allison Pinkett-Floyd called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Plum Library.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - a. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll call, recording both present and absent members (current trustees)
 - a. Present: President Allison Pinkett-Floyd, Vice President Ken Marshall, Secretary Julie Kowalski-Schmidt; Trustees Kelly Simms, Jennifer Erickson, and Sue Wiggins.
 - b. Absent: Treasurer Kristin Aasmundstad Walsh
 - c. Staff members present: Executive Director Claudia Krauspe, Assistant Director Anne Luzeniecki
 - d. Guests present: none
- IV. Thank you-presentation to outgoing trustee Ken Marshall
 - a. Vice President Ken Marshall gave a final statement as a trustee of the Helen Plum Library (attached as Exhibit A)
- V. Swearing in of Trustees elected in the 2023 Consolidated Election.
 - a. Secretary Kowalski-Schmidt presented the Oath of Office to swear in the following elected Trustees: Ginger Kearney and Allison Pinkett-Floyd
- VI. Public Comment
 - a. Public comments were made by the following citizens of Lombard: Thomas Sweda and Dana Schiewe
- VII. ACTION ITEM: Election of Board of Trustees Officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary).
 - a. Trustee Wiggins moved to nominate as President of the Board Allison Pinkett-Floyd. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. No other nominations were made. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
 - b. President Pinkett-Floyd moved to nominate Trustee Sue Wiggins as Vice President. Secretary Kowalski-Schmidt seconded motion. No other nominations were made. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
 - c. President Pinkett-Floyd moved to nominate Kristin Aasmundstad Walsh as Treasurer. VP Wiggins seconded motion. No other nominations were made. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.

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- d. VP Wiggins moved to nominate Julie Kowalski-Schmidt as Secretary. President Pinkett-Floyd seconded motion. No other nominations were made. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
 - e. Election of officers concluded.
- VIII. ACTION ITEM: Adoption of the Agenda
- a. VP Wiggins moved to adopt the agenda. Trustee Erickson seconded motion. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- IX. ACTION ITEM: Approval of consent agenda items
- a. Approval of minutes
 - i. Regular Board meeting, April 18, 2023
 - b. Approval of financial reports
 - i. Cash and Investments Report dated April 30, 2023
 - ii. Revenue and Expenditures vs. Budget Report dated April 30, 2023
 - iii. Check Register dated April 30, 2023
 - iv. Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison as of April 30, 2023
 - c. Trustee Erickson moved to approve consent agenda items. VP Wiggins seconded motion.
 - i. Our operating budget is very healthy. Claudia noted many of our budgets are well under budget. Under special expenditures, our workers' compensation insurance rates went up because of a claim.
 - ii. Claudia also noted on page 2 of the Revenue & Expenses vs. Budget Report under Operating Expenses, Public Relations is slightly over budget. This is because we can't deduct the \$4,000 the foundation has given to us.
 - iii. Secretary Kowalski-Schmidt had a question about page 2 of the Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison. She inquired about what work is still being finished and what outstanding accounts are still open. Claudia noted that FQC has a master budget. They manage all the contractors and once a month sign off on requests for payment. We cut one check to FQC. There is still another 3.7 Mil outstanding. Landscaping will be one of the last accounts to be paid.
 - d. All ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- X. Committee reports
- a. Audit Committee
 - i. Did not meet.
 - b. Director Relations Committee
 - i. Did not meet.
 - c. Policy and Bylaws Committee
 - i. Did not meet.
- XI. Unfinished Business
- a. No unfinished business to report.
- XII. New Business
- a. ACTION ITEM: Adopt the current policies and bylaws of the Helen M. Plum Memorial Public Library District

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- XVII. The Board returned to Open Session at 8:21 p.m. Roll Call.
- XVIII. Adjournment: 8:22 p.m.
 - a. VP Wiggins moved to adjourn. President Pinkett-Floyd seconded motion. All ayes, no nays.

Approved: _____

Julie Kowalski-Schmidt
Board Secretary

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Exhibit A

Statement from outgoing Vice President Ken Marshall

Thank you. In my final address as a Helen M. Plum Memorial Public Library trustee, I would like to briefly (well, maybe not so briefly) review the major events of my four-year tenure and the ways in which the Library Board dealt with them.

When I took office in 2019, I thought the Board faced two significant challenges: deciding where to build the new Library and then getting it built. Later, however, two more challenges emerged: finding a new Executive Director and dealing with COVID. Then the status of the Library's Maple Street property had to be addressed. Finally, issues of potential book banning and censorship arose.

I believe the Board handled the aforesaid matters well. I will speak about each in turn.

All of the trustees wanted the new building to be constructed on the site of the old. I was especially adamant in this regard. The Board spent years endeavoring to make that happen. I could talk for hours about why our effort failed; here suffice it to say that it was not for lack of trying on this Board's part. When it became clear that the Library must relocate, months of negotiations, discussions, consultations, and deliberations showed that the Mr. Z's property was the only reasonable option. Although I very much wanted the Library to remain where Colonel Plum wished it to be when he willed his land "for purposes of a public park and a free public library", I decided to vote to for the purchase of the Mr. Z's land because acquiring it would result in moving forward after years of doing our best in the unsuccessful attempt to keep the Library where it was.

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As for finding a new Executive Director, the Board was extremely fortunate both in having the ideal candidate right in front of us, and in realizing that we did. Claudia Krauspe stepped into the maelstrom of the building and the COVID situations and did a magnificent job of leading the library during both. I honestly don't know how, but for her skills and those of her staff, the Library would have dealt with, and then emerged from, those situations as well as it did. The Board and the Lombard community owe a great deal of thanks to Claudia, Sue Wilsey, and the rest of the Library staff for their tireless work and "can do" attitude while carrying the Library through an exceedingly demanding period and into the new building era. I would put our Library's staff up against any other library's staff in terms of dedication, effectiveness, and hard work during both normal and abnormal times.

Next came the matter of the Maple Street land. I had hoped that the Library could retain title to that property, but lengthy Board discussions as to what would be best for the Lombard community, along with consideration of legal, economic, and political realities (among others, the land's appraised value, building demolition costs, zoning issues, and limitations on potential future uses of the property), convinced me that the best way to proceed would be to dispose of the property by means of agreements with the village and park district boards, thereby allowing Lombard to enjoy its wonderful new Library free from ongoing controversies concerning the fate of the former Library site.

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As to possible book banning and censorship (the fighting of which is a particular concern of mine), the Board has stood firmly against them and has fully supported the library director and her policies opposing the same. I am confident that the Board will continue to do so.

I'm proud to say that, throughout my time on the Board, all members worked together amicably concerning the above issues, always thinking about what would best serve the interests of Lombard residents. With specific regard to the building, we, as the saying goes, played the hand we were dealt, and I think we played it as well as circumstances permitted. In the words of those eminent philosophers, the Rolling Stones, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you just might find, you get what you need". I take great satisfaction and delight in seeing that the gray cloud of having to relocate the library had within it a giant shiny silver lining: the beautiful building in which we are now meeting. So, it looks like we did in fact get what we needed: a new library, free of air rights restrictions and other constraints, for the public to use and appreciate for decades to come.

Let me conclude with a short comment on the recent trustee election. Although I can't say that the best man won (because in fact no man did win), I congratulate the victors. I believe the Board is in good hands and wish it well in its ongoing tasks of overseeing the Library and of dealing with future issues in ways calculated to produce the best results for the Lombard community. I'm certain that neither I nor the community will be disappointed.