

Bellwood Public Library

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Regular Board
Remote Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

Mrs. Smith, President, called the Bellwood Public Library Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Present:

Ms. Mary Clements
Ms. Deborah Giles
Ms. Maria Perez
Ms. Constance Riales
Mrs. Dorothy Smith
Mr. Reginald Stewart

Also in attendance: Library Director, Amy Crump, Business Manager, Ashley Matthews, Administrative Assistant, Lili Savage, and 9 members of the public.

Pastor Horton arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Riales to approve the meeting minutes for March 9, 2021.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Clements, Pastor Horton, Ms. Perez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 1: Ms. Giles

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Finance Committee Report:

Ms. Clements gave the finance report which included: Reports of Bills: #808, 808-A, & 808-B. The following reports of bills were submitted, copies of which are included as part of these minutes:

#808 (Bill List) in the amount of	\$ 48,822.20
#808-A (Payroll) in the amount of	\$ 51,844.14
#808-B (Checking) in the amount of	\$ 0.00

TOTAL:

\$ 100,666.34

A motion was made by Ms. Riales, seconded by Mr. Stewart for approval of Bills-Reports #808, 808-A, 808-B. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Clements, Ms. Giles, Pastor Horton, Ms. Perez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 0:

The motion passed.

Other Committee Reports:

- A. Administrative Committee Report: NO REPORT
- B. Building and Grounds Committee: NO REPORT
- C. Finance Committee: NO REPORT
- D. Public Relations and Legislative Committee: NO REPORT
- E. Planning and Development Committee: NO REPORT
- F. RAILS Committee: NO REPORT

Unfinished Business:

Representatives from American Deposits Management Co. and Win Trust Commercial Bank made presentations and answered the Board of Trustees questions.

A motion was made by Ms. Riales, seconded by Ms. Clements to TABLE the approval of banking options for investment/deposit of Library funds.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 7 Ms. Clements, Ms. Giles, Pastor Horton, Ms. Perez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN:0:

ABSENT:0:

The motion passed

New Business:

Mrs. Smith read the information about the 4K ANNUAL Breast Cancer 5K Walk/Run In-Person & Virtually Pink Divas & Gents to the Board. Those who were interested in participating gave their names to Director Crump.

Communication/Announcements: None

Library Director Report: The report is posted on the Bellwood Public Library's web page.

Public Comment:

Wanda Gipson submitted a written public comment:

Chair Yoga's attendance has been between six to thirteen. The attendance would be lower because those who attend the class are mainly seniors. A computer is needed for the class. There was not a class list for the class. I contacted members of the class that I knew. In order to know about the class, one had to go on the library's website. Payment is required for the class online. Seniors are on fixed incomes.

I cannot locate a detailed budget on the website. The budget as presented to the board has always been available to the public on the website. What is the amount the attorney receives?

For the last four years, the public attending the library board meetings received a copy of the minutes before the meeting. The director's report was included in the minutes. The minutes did not have to be read aloud. During a virtual meeting, the public does not receive a copy and that is why I suggested the minutes be read aloud. The Library Statutes do not address the reading of the minutes at a library board meeting. A library board can choose to be open and transparent with the community it serves or not.

Why is a copy of your answers send to the board president and the attorney and not to all members of the board?

Bellwood Library and Melrose Park Library are the only libraries in the western suburbs that require library attorneys to attend all board meetings. The other libraries only ask attorneys to attend meetings when they must address a specific legal issue.

Communications with library directors and board presidents indicated that requiring attorneys to attend all meetings is an indication of financial irresponsibility on the part of the library board. Why does the Bellwood Library Board have such a cavalier attitude towards using library funds? Funds should be used to provide services for the community not unnecessary services for the board.

I do not know how much Attorney Jarad is compensated to attend a meeting, but I am sure it would cover the cost of several virtual events for the library.

Five years ago, the politicized library board tried to pass several illegal and unethical policies. If they had been successful, Trustees Giles, Smith, Perez and now Riales would not be on the library board.

Politicized boards are self-serving and prefer an apathetic community. They suppress any opposition with personal attacks and supersede the authority of their power.

As a member of the Bellwood community, I have requested that the Bellwood Library Board demonstrate transparency and a willingness to engage the community. Instead, it feels like we have gone back in time to five years ago.

Board President Smith acknowledged public comments.

Board President Smith made an apology to Arnetta Watkins from the Board for comments at a previous board meeting.

Adjournment: Ms. Clements moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
A roll call was taken.

AYES: 7: Ms. Clements, Ms. Giles, Pastor Horton, Ms. Perez, Ms. Riales, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN:0:

ABSENT:0:

The motion passed.

Reginald Stewart, Secretary