

## Bellwood Public Library

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Special Board  
Remote Virtual Meeting  
Special Meeting Minutes  
November 25, 2020

Mrs. Smith, President, called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bellwood Public Library to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent: Pastor Michael Horton

Also in attendance: Library Director Amy Crump and Bellwood Chamber of Commerce President Arnetta Watkins.

Library Attorney Dee Jarad arrived at 6:11 p.m.

**Public Comment:** Arnetta Watkins thanked Director Crump and the Board for following the CDC rules when it came to the closing of the Library.

**New Business:**

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Perez to approve Director Crump's recommendations to limit library hours to Monday through Friday and providing only virtual and curbside services from November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Discussion:

Director Crump stated that based on the State-wide Stay at Home Advisory that runs through December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Chicago Stay at Home Advisory and the Suburban Cook County Stay At Home Advisory that run from November 16<sup>th</sup> - December 16<sup>th</sup>, most Chicagoland public libraries are returning to curbside only service. Some have even limited their services to strictly online services.

Director Crump added that 70 of the 97 SWAN libraries are either closed or offering curbside only during the Advisories. It is highly likely that these Stay At Home Advisories will extend past the holidays.

Because of these Advisories and for the safety of our staff and patrons, Director Crump recommended that the Bellwood Public Library offer curbside only services from November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Director Crump pointed out that the Advisories strongly urge employers have staff work remotely as much as possible – high risk groups particularly. Director Crump recommended that we allow the staff members who are in the high-risk category to working remotely with no on-site hours. This would require the Bellwood Library to temporarily halt the Saturday hours because we won't have enough staff available to work onsite.

Finally, Director Crump recommended that the Trustees and Director re-evaluate the services based on the status of the pandemic at the end of December.

Trustee Giles requested that the questions she emailed to Director Crump regarding the closure of the library from November 12<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> due to a covid exposure at the library. President Smith, Trustee Perez and Trustee Riales referred to breach of confidentiality and the Privacy Act in providing what Trustee Giles has requested.

Trustee Stewart stated that he approves of the actions of Director Crump and her responses to Trustee Giles questions. He asked Attorney Jarad what her opinion was of Director Crump's responses. Attorney Jarad responded that Director Crump answered the questions and that the library should "err on the side of confidentiality".

Trustee Giles stated that she is not accusing Director Crump of any inappropriate actions and asked Attorney Jarad if the Trustees have no right to know the name of the person who was ill. Attorney Jarad repeated that the library should "err on the side of confidentiality".

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 5: Ms. Clements, Ms. Perez, Ms. Riales, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Smith

NAYS: 1: Ms Giles

ABSTAIN:0:

ABSENT:1: Pastor Horton

The motion passed.

**Public Comment:** Arnetta Watkins made the following comment: I am sorry, with all the contact tracing that are in place, individuals are still contracting this virus. You can walk the in the store and contract it. Are you going to ask the store owner who came in there with it? You cannot give any individuals name or you are opening the Library up for a lawsuit. If it was me and your Director gave anyone, Board member or anyone my name, I will sue the Director, each board member and the Library.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Riales moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Clements second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

A roll call was taken.

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

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN:0:

ABSENT:1: Pastor Horton

The motion passed.

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Reginald Stewart, Secretary