

SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Carolyn A. Anthony Business and Community Center

CALL TO ORDER

Gene Griffin, President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Members present:

- Gene Griffin, President; Mary Pietrucha, Secretary; Mira Barbir; Michelle Mallari; Ella Whitehead; Amanda Lichtenstein.

Members absent:

- Shabnam Mahmood, Vice President

Staff present:

- Richard Kong, Executive Director; Laura McGrath, Deputy Director; Alyson Doubek, Finance Manager; Suzy Rodela-Sulik, Administrative Coordinator; Calin Muntean, Learning Experiences Supervisor.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

There were no comments from observers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

At 6:34 pm, Ms. Whitehead made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lichtenstein:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2024.

A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously and placed on file. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kong updated the trustees on the Petty Auditorium Project delay, upcoming Banned Books Week, Oakton College Learning Commons dedication, and Turning Point Living Room launch event. Ms. Mallari commented that she appreciates the library's administrative staff serving on other boards and exploring community connections.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 2024 DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The trustees asked some clarifying questions about the disbursement report.

At 6:41 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Barbir:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE AUGUST 2024 DISBURSEMENT REPORT.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF PETTY AUDITORIUM CONSTRUCTION PAY APP #2

At 6:42 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Pietrucha, seconded by Ms. Whitehead:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PETTY AUDITORIUM CONSTRUCTION PAY APP#2 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$131,826.00

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF PETTY AUDITORIUM AV PAY APP #2

At 6:42 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Mallari, seconded by Ms. Lichtenstein:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PETTY AUDITORIUM AV PAY APP #2 AT A TOTAL COST OF \$233,810.55

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The trustees discussed the reports, statistics, and events, and asked some clarifying questions.

At 6:59 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Mallari:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND THAT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BE PLACED ON FILE:

1. REPORTS;
2. GIFTS;
3. PERSONNEL:

HIRES:

Effective August 19, 2024:

Aashi Prajapati, Materials Handler, Access Services.

Effective August 26, 2024:

Aaron de Leon, Experiential Learning Specialist, Learning Experiences.

Effective September 6, 2024:

Brittany Goudie-Nemec, Teen Services Specialist, Teen Services.

Effective September 3, 2024:

Althea Bibat, Materials Handler, Access Services.

Aubree Lanman, Advisory Specialist, Patron Engagement.

DEPARTURES:

Effective September 17, 2024:

Marianne Ryczek, Youth Services Specialist, Youth Services.

Effective September 25, 2024:

Caitlin Savage, Youth Services Librarian II, Youth Services.

RETIREMENT:

Effective September 12, 2024:

David Hickman, Safety Specialist, Safety.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

INFORMATION ABOUT 2025 LIMRiCC INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mr. Kong provided an update on the LIMRiCC insurance renewal, and moving from Aetna to BCBSIL. Open enrollment will start in November. The trustees asked clarifying questions and noted the information on the LIMRiCC insurance renewal.

ADOPTION OF 2024 TAX LEVY

The trustees discussed the tax levy.

At 8:08 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Pietrucha, seconded by Ms. Lichtenstein:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPT A 3% INCREASE FOR THE 2024 TAX LEVY, RESULTING IN A TOTAL LEVY OF \$13,879,236.00

A roll call vote was taken and the motion did not pass. The vote was 3 ayes – Ms. Pietrucha, Ms. Lichtenstein, and Ms. Barbir; and 3 nays – Ms. Whitehead, Mr. Griffin, and Ms. Mallari.

At 8:10 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Lichtenstein, seconded by Ms. Pietrucha:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPT A 2% INCREASE FOR THE 2024 TAX LEVY, RESULTING IN A TOTAL LEVY OF \$13,744,486.00

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. The vote was 4 ayes – Ms. Pietrucha, Ms. Lichtenstein, Ms. Mallari, and Mr. Griffin; and 2 nays – Ms. Barbir and Ms. Whitehead.

After the vote, Ms. Barbir and Ms. Whitehead clarified that they supported an increase to the tax levy in the range of 2.0%-2.5%.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

Mr. Griffin read a comment received from Richard Witry, President of the Skokie Historical Society, regarding giving proper credit when using historical images used in the library's newsletter. Mr. Kong acknowledged the comment and responded the library will ensure proper credit is given going forward. Ms. Pietrucha commented that she enjoyed seeing library representation at the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Ms. Lichtenstein expressed her appreciation for the library being a designated cooling center during the summer. Ms. Whitehead commented that she visited the library on a Sunday evening and was pleasantly surprised by the high volume of library patrons present.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:21 pm a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Mallari:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Mary Pietrucha, Secretary