

Westchester Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
March 9, 2017

A regular meeting of the Westchester Public Library Board of Trustees was held at the Thomas Public Library, 200 West Indiana, Chesterton, Indiana, on Thursday, March 9 , 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Members present:   Kathryn Cochran  
                          Michele Corazzo  
                          Michael Livovich  
                          Drew Rhed  
                          Nick Tilden  
                          Abbe Trent  
Member absent:     Rondi Wightman

Also present at this meeting were Director Leea Yelich, Thomas Branch Librarian Julia Christensen, Information Technology Manager Joe Harry, Technical Services Librarian Rose Halpin, Circulation Manager Karyn Witt, Attorney Terry Hiestand, and Minutes Recorder Christine Hoover.

This meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Board President Kathryn Cochran.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Abbe Trent to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2017 meeting as presented. Michele Corazzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Approval of Claims and Warrants

A motion was made by Nick Tilden to approve the Claims and Warrants as presented. Drew Rhed seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Librarian's Report

Kathryn Cochran was reappointed to the Board of Trustees by the Duneland School Board at their meeting this week. The County Council has not yet verified the reappointment of Michael Livovich.

Staff changes for the month include the loss of Clerks Linda Bayman and John Robbins. Clerks Cyndi Justak, Cindy Hughes, Ronnie Early, and Sandra King were hired for the new Programming Clerk positions. Sharon Smith moved from being a substitute Clerk to a part-time Clerk. Betty Lanko was hired to assist at the Museum. The Library will be looking to hire a temporary part-time landscaper for spring/summer upkeep of the Library's outdoor grounds.

Resource Description and Access (RDA) training sponsored by the Midwest Collaborative Library Services (MCLS) is being provided to the Technical Services Department via webinar.

There was a decline in the number of people participating in this year's Winter Reading Program. This may be due to the program being done online rather than paper-based as in past years. A schedule has been made for the Bandstand Summer Concerts and Family Film Series.

There will be a panel discussion of the PBS Frontline documentary *Being Mortal* on Thursday, April 27, 6 pm at the Baugher Center. This documentary is based on the book by Dr. Atul Gawande and explores issues relating to terminal illness.

Steindler's insurance company advised that there appears to be appropriate coverage to pay the claim from Frontier for the severed cables that occurred during the outdoor signage project. Therefore, a check will be sent to Steindler representing 30% of the signage cost. Once the punch-list resolutions final walk-through is complete, the remaining 20% of payment will be released. Afterwards, Kovenz will install the stone caps to finish the project.

The Museum is featuring "The Invisible Project" dealing with homelessness in Porter County. A new basement door has been installed at the Brown Mansion.

The raised gardening beds at Hageman are now rotted away and not usable. To replace these four beds with cedar will cost around \$2,400. Other ideas for raised beds were discussed, including having this gardening bed project part of Rebuilding Together. Director Yelich will speak to a representative of Rebuilding Together about this possibility.

#### Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

#### New Business            Election of Officers

Michele Corazzo nominated the following slate of nominees as officers of the Board of Trustees: Michael Livovich, President; Rondi Wightman, Vice President; Drew Rhed, Secretary; and Nick Tilden, Treasurer. Abbe Trent seconded the nominations. Since there were no other nominations, the nominations were closed. All voted in favor of the slate as nominated.

#### Other Business            Vision 2037

A committee consisting of Kathryn Cochran, Michele Corazzo, and Michael Livovich has met twice since the last Board meeting to discuss the possibility of conducting an extensive community survey in an effort to determine what the Library's needs might be in the future. They agreed that it would be advantageous to use the Future of Chesterton Foundation to conduct the research and survey.

The Library would need to narrow down its objectives and goals of such a survey. It was suggested that the survey target teens and young adults and what their library needs may be in the future as they reach adulthood. Also discussed was the idea of speaking with other

consultant groups to get price quotes for their services. Director Yelich will look into this further.

The next step will be to meet with Gerard Pannekoek of the Future of Chesterton Foundation to get his input and advice on how to refine the aspects of this survey. This would need to be solidified by the end of April for the Foundation to begin the project in the fall.

The date of the next Board meeting will be Thursday, April 13, at 7:00 pm at Thomas Library.

Drew Rhed made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Hoover, Minutes Recorder for  
Rondi Wightman, Secretary