



Antioch Public Library District

ANTIOCH PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

I. The regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of the Antioch Public Library District was called to order by President Thomas Hausman Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 7:03 p.m. in the Eide Room at the Library and via Zoom virtual platform.

Present:

- **Library Board Members: James Santi (Eide Room), Scott Zalatoris (Zoom), Becky Masik (Zoom), Peter Mazzetta (Zoom) and Thomas Hausman (Eide Room)**
- **Library Staff Members: Jennifer Drinka (Zoom), Kathy Deaner (Zoom), Amy Blue (Eide Room), Becky Jacobson (Zoom)**
- **Citizens: Ryan LeFave with Studio GC (Zoom), Rick McCarthy with Studio GC (Zoom) and Pat Callahan with Studio GC (Zoom)**

Peter Mazzetta moved and Scott Zalatoris seconded a motion to suspend the agenda to allow architects from Studio GC speak first. All voted aye.

Rick McCarthy very happy to be talking tonight and wanted to congratulate everyone for working so tirelessly to get the referendum passed. He stated there was no precedent for this at all. Everybody stepped up to make this happen. The only matter of business tonight is Rick said there needs to be a building committee meeting scheduled, not necessarily now, in the next week or two to talk about the project delivery and making the right decisions. Ryan LeFave commented he was very excited to get started on the project. Tom Hausman added this was the only referendum that passed in Lake County. Pat Callahan said it was the hard work of the staff and the citizens group, who worked on the library's behalf, with a strategy and effective way of communicating to the community in getting the facts out about the project in unprecedented times. There is a story there to tell perhaps for another day. It is great to realize the opportunity for the community and we are happy to be a part of it. Rick said he has been trying to talk Jennifer Drinka in working with him to put together a presentation for the Illinois Library's Association



about “how we did it.” Rick believes people are going to want to know. Jennifer agreed to help Rick with his presentation. Studio GC architects left the meeting at 7:09pm.

II. Secretary’s Report/Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

James Santi moved and Peter Mazzetta seconded a motion to approve the October 2020 Minutes of the Antioch Public Library District Board of Trustees Meeting. Jennifer Drinka stated she inadvertently stated in Appendix K, page 6 the fines cap was \$25 when it should be \$20. Thomas Hausman asked for a roll call vote to the motion, as amended: Peter Mazzetta, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Scott Zalatoris, aye; James Santi, aye; and Thomas Hausman, aye.

James Santi moved and Scott Zalatoris seconded a motion to approve the October 29, 2020 Levy Hearing Minutes. Thomas Hausman asked for a roll call vote: Peter Mazzetta, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Scott Zalatoris, aye; James Santi, aye; and Thomas Hausman, aye.

III. Approval of Bills and Payroll

Scott Zalatoris moved and Peter Mazzetta seconded a motion to approve the bills and payroll for the month of November 2020. On a roll call vote: Peter Mazzetta, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Scott Zalatoris, aye; James Santi, aye; and Thomas Hausman aye.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Scott Zalatoris stated there was \$2,254,289.55 in our four bank accounts. We received a property tax disbursement from the County on November 13 for \$72,648.98. James Santi asked when the bond would be paid. Scott responded the final bond payment will be due January 1 but the payment would be made in December. The bond will be paid in full at that point.

V. President’s Comments

Tom said it has been a privilege to Chair this Board with all we have been going through this year and putting this package together for the past three years. Tom congratulated his fellow Board members for taking the risk to putting this up for referendum. He thanked Jennifer Drinka for heading up

the Library, he thanked Becky Jacobson for getting out all the information that was necessary, he thanked Deputy Director, Amy Blue for her support, he thanked the entire staff of the Library during this time and he also thanked the Architects for their plan. Tom also wanted to thank the citizen's committee, in particular Chairperson Ann Kakacek and co-Chair Angie Zalatoris and all the members of the committee. They did a wonderful job getting the information out and getting people to vote yes. Tom also wanted to thank the entire community for voting regardless whether they voted yes or no. It was a phenomenal turn out. Tom showed the Board a copy of the signed certification that the referendum passed. Tom did mention the referendum could still be challenged. Tom said he is proud of this Library, proud of this particular Board and proud of our community.

VI. Notices and Communications

A. Lake County Clerk Canvassing of Votes Letter

Tom stated canvassing of votes for the November 3, 2020 election was held on Thursday, November 19 at the County Clerk's office.

B. Referendum Certification

Tom and Jennifer Drinka went to the County Clerk's office on November 19 and picked up the signed certification letter.

C. *The Dog's Ear* Fall Staff Newsletter

Tom said a copy of *The Dog's Ear* Fall Staff Newsletter was in their Board packets.

D. Property Assessment Appeal

Robert S. Glueckert, Lake County Clerk of the Board of Review, notified the Library there has been an appeal filed with the State Property Tax Appeal Board requesting a reduction of \$100,000 or more in real property assessed valuation within our taxing district. Jennifer Drinka stated our lawyer recommends not doing anything about this.

Tom read a notification from the Women's Club postponing their 100th Year Anniversary celebration from 10/14/2020 to hopefully 5/12/2021.

VII. Library Director's Report

A. Overview of Reports

Jennifer Drinka is proud to be a part of this moment. Jennifer stated we have been getting many congratulations. We have been getting emails, phone calls, comments on Facebook congratulating us on the referendum. ILA (The Illinois Library Association) and ALA (American Library Association) has also taken notice. This is a big deal and a historic moment for our community and a historic moment for public libraries. We should all be proud that our community stood up for our Library at a time like this. The patron comments are inspiring, as always. People really do love our Library even though it has been a rough couple of months on social media. Becky Jacobson has been keeping up with the comments on social media, answering questions and handling it all really well. Jennifer continued with a Covid update. We are open from 1 – 5pm every day. We are pretty much the only library in our area that has the building open. Coming very soon, we will have something new on the veranda. We will be putting a story walk out there. Becky Jacobson said there would be two Highlighter Seek and Find picture books featured: *Twas the Night Before Christmas* and *Find the Pine Tree*. Jennifer said there would be lights and Christmas trees on the veranda. Becky has gotten the staff engaged in making ornament kits for people to take home, make, bring back and put on the tree. The ornaments are based on the two Seek and Find books. This is a fun and safe holiday activity for people to do. Jennifer was happy to report that currently there is no staff out due to Covid. We had one staff test positive, she was off for two weeks, and anyone she was in close contact with was notified and quarantined as well.

B. Personnel Changes

There were no personnel changes.

VIII. Public Comment

A. Board Corner

James Santi suggested recruiting people for the Board who are curious as to how the money from the referendum will be spent.

Scott Zalatoris said he would save his comments on the referendum and the Library until next month. He has one comment for tonight. We are not subject to the Illinois Procurement Code but anyone who has been in public procurement knows contractors know the referendum has passed. Be careful when talking to a contractor or a vendor, it could be construed as a negotiation and anybody who does not get a bid is looking for a reason to file suit and get a bid overturned. Scott recommends to everybody do not talk to anybody outside of the committee or the architect's process. Be careful, even a friendly email or call can turn into a legal nightmare. James Santi asked what he should do if he receives an email. Scott's recommendation is not to respond or refer to Jennifer Drinka. Jennifer Drinka said we have been hearing from a multitude of contractors and have been given a canned response from Rick promising nothing and let Rick know. Scott agreed a canned nothing response was good.

Peter Mazzetta – Excited to be a part of this. Very helpful information from Scott. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Becky Masik thanked the Board and staff for all of the hard work on the referendum. Regarding the newsletter, Becky said she has noticed on social media people wondering who the Board is. Becky asked if we should consider having a 'Board Corner' of some sort in the newsletter letting the Boards' presence known and being more visible. Tom responded the Board does have a piece in the next newsletter and Becky makes a good point in staying more visible. In March, the Library will host a 'Meet the Candidates' night for the public. Tom stated four trustee packets had been picked up and asked the Board if they knew anyone who would be a good candidate for the Library Board to please let them know. The filing period is December 14 – 21.

B. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

C. Staff Comments

Amy Blue said it was a fantastic job by everyone. Becky Jacobson concurred with everyone else and added this has been a wild ride and is glad this part is over. Kathy Deaner agreed and said she is proud of

everyone and his or her hard work. Kathy said she does hear good things when out in the community about the Library. The referendum would not have passed if the Library did not have the foundation in the community to start with.

D. Friends' Report

Nothing this month.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Renovations & Expansion Committee

The next Renovation & Expansion Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 via Zoom or at the Library. Jennifer reported to the Board our legal counsel said that November 19 was a crucial milestone when the County Clerk certified the results. In Illinois, there is discovery recount. People have five business days to bring five people together and pay a \$10 filing fee per precinct for no more than 25% of the precincts to go through a sampling of the ballots to see if a full recount would be justified. It is done very seldom in Illinois and five people need to go in together to do it. Five business days would take us to December 1. The next step would be to sell the bonds and lock in the interest rate and that cannot be done until after 30 days when the vote has been canvassed. So not until December 19 or after. The January Board meeting will be the next official action to take to sell the bonds. The bonds will be sold in \$5000 increments. Patrons have started to ask if they could purchase the bonds. Yes. When everything is set, we will publish it on our website and Facebook. They will be made available to local residents and banks before it goes to the general market. The County Clerk will alert us if anyone does the discovery recount. Becky Masik asked if we knew how long a discovery recount would take. Jennifer did not know.

X. New Business

A. Policy Manual Updates

Jennifer told the Board we realize it has been a rough year and if anyone needed help in updating their policy manual to let us know and

we would help update it. Becky Masik asked if there was a PDF file of all policies for them to update. Jennifer said all of the policy updates have been uploaded to google drive on their iPads.

XI. Closed Session

A. Library Director's Evaluation.

James Santi moved and Scott Zalatoris seconded a motion to go into closed session for the Library Director's Evaluation. On a roll call vote: Scott Zalatoris, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Peter Mazzetta, aye; James Santi, aye; and Thomas Hausman, aye. Staff left the meeting at 8:20pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:27pm.

Scott Zalatoris moved and James Santi seconded the motion with the Executive Session concluded the consensus of this Committee is that the Library Director receive an exceptional annual evaluation in rating and in summary comments. Five out of five.

Jennifer Drinka wished to thank everyone. She commented this is her dream job. She works with a dream staff and a dream Board, everything is a labor love.

XII. Adjournment

James Santi moved and Becky Masik seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. All voted aye.



Becky Masik, Secretary

