

**ANTIOCH PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

I. The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Antioch Public Library District was called to order by President Becky Masik Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 7:02 p.m. in the Kakacek Room at the Library.

Present:

- **Library Board Members: Robert Altman, Ryan Haley, Paul Hettich, Toni Leprich, Becky Masik and Susan Moore.**
- **Absent Board Members: Deborah York**
- **Library Staff Members: Amy Blue, Jennifer Drinka, Suzanne Jones, Kim Mirocko and Jennifer Norris**
- **Citizens: None**

Requested a motion to change the agenda; Robert Altman moved to change the agenda to move the service award presentation to the top of the agenda, Paul Hettich seconded. All voted aye.

VII. B. ii. Kim Mirocko was recognized for her 25 years of service at the Library. A certificate and check were presented, with congratulations from all in attendance. Kim Mirocko expressed her gratitude, adding that she has always felt lucky to work at the Library, but is very proud as well. Kim Mirocko left the meeting immediately following the presentation.

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

A. October 29, 2024 Board Meeting

Susan Moore moved to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2024 Board meeting. Paul Hettich seconded. All voted aye.

B. October 29, 2024 Levy Hearing

Susan Moore moved to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2024 Levy

Hearing. Paul Hettich seconded. All voted aye.

C. October 29, 2024 Closed Session

Susan Moore moved to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2024 Closed Session. Paul Hettich seconded. All voted aye.

III. Approval of Bills and Payroll

Robert Altman moved to approve the bills and payroll. Paul Hettich seconded. On a roll call vote: Robert Altman, aye; Ryan Haley, aye; Paul Hettich, aye; Toni Leprich, aye; Becky Masik, aye; and Susan Moore, aye.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Ryan Haley reported that payroll has been approved and everything is in good shape, and in good order. Jennifer Drinka stated all remaining funds in the Renovations Account were transferred into the Money Market Account, as that account is being closed. The large transfer of funds from the Money Market Account into the Operating Account this month is due to the bond payment and 50% of the cost of the Strategic Plan.

V. President's Comments

Becky Masik received Library feedback from patrons while out getting petition signatures, and overall it was very positive. She thanked everyone in advance for being at the meeting and thanked Jennifer Drinka for all of her recent work.

VI. Notices and Communications

A. Col Paul J Hettich Family Donation

Becky Masik expressed gratitude to the Hettich family for their donation to the Library.

VII. Executive Library Director's Report

A. Overview of Reports

Jennifer Drinka stated that Election Day went well, with no issues to report. She provided an overview of her trip to the Library Journal Director’s Summit, noting that it had a greater impact on her than any previous event she has attended. Additionally, she highlighted some of the information that she found particularly noteworthy. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is nearing the completion of their initiative to make personal supplies available for patrons.

B. Personnel Changes

i. Kim Mirocko, Head of Technical Services (25-year award)

Moved to beginning of meeting.

ii. Business Manager hiring

Suzanne Jones has been hired as the new Business Manager.

iii. Keylea Fields, Page hiring

iv. Sandra Doetsch, Children’s Assistant resignation

Susan Moore moved to approve the hiring of Suzanne and Keylea. Toni Leprich seconded. On a roll call vote: Robert Altman, aye; Ryan Haley, aye; Paul Hettich, aye; Toni Leprich, aye; Becky Masik, aye; and Susan Moore, aye.

VIII. Public Comment

A. Board Corner

***Robert Altman* – Robert reassured Jennifer Drinka that the Board has her back and this will all work out. Toni Leprich and Susan Moore agreed with his sentiment.**

***Ryan Haley* – Ryan stated that Election Day was exceptional and all went smoothly. He’s received positive feedback about the Library’s job as a polling site. He thanked the Library for providing a last minute meeting room for Bernie Smith’s Veteran’s Day event. It was good to learn the**

reservation process and expressed thanks to Sam Langford for his assistance in making it a positive experience.

Paul Hettich – Paul also received similar positive feedback regarding Election Day. He asked if there are plans for the Library to serve as a polling place in the future, to which Jennifer Drinka and Amy Blue replied that we’ve already signed on for the elections in April 2025. The Lion’s Club is making a container to collect donated eyeglasses at the Library and it will be brought over after it’s completed.

Toni Leprich – Toni thanked staff members Sam Langford, Paula Williams and Suzanne Jones for their help with her recent issues uploading Board Meeting packets.

Susan Moore – Nothing new to report.

Deborah York – Absent

B. Citizen’s Comments

None.

C. Staff Comments

None.

D. Friends Report

Amy Blue reported that the Friends’ made \$2,300.00 from their Fall Book Sale. There will be no meetings until February and therefore no reports until then as well. Officer elections are in the spring.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Utica Insurance coverage re: Resolution Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education in OCR Docket No. 05-24-4030

Jennifer Drinka gave an overview of where things stand with the office for civil rights complaint, and reported that our insurance will not cover the legal fees, which are approximately \$20,000. Jennifer consulted with attorney Michelle Nierman from Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins regarding what options the Library may have because of this decision. While the law regarding this is expected to undergo changes, would it be advisable for us to initiate a lawsuit to force the issue? Michelle stated that the Library could take that route, but she believes it wouldn't be worth it from a financial standpoint. Ultimately, Jennifer's recommendation is to let it lie. Jennifer Norris reported on the status of the case, stating the required documentation was submitted by the deadline and we're in a good place. Regarding the possibility of receiving any notice of finalization, she believes we'll receive something that indicates the case was accepted and closed. Potential options for being reimbursed for at least some of the funds spent were discussed. Contacting the State Librarian was suggested and Jennifer Norris said she would write up a summary for submittal.

B. Schedule Audit Presentation and Board Approval of Audit

Jennifer Drinka stated the Audit Presentation and Board Approval of Audit will occur at the January 28, 2025 Board Meeting.

X. New Business

A. Support for Proposed Term Sheet for IGA Offer to Village of Antioch re: Marketplace Redevelopment Project Area/TIF District

Becky Masik indicated that the action is to let the Village know the Library supports District 34's Term Sheet for IGA Offer to Village of Antioch re: Marketplace Redevelopment Project Area/TIF District.

Jennifer Drinka outlined the term sheet, which stipulates surplus TIF funds need to be distributed to all taxing bodies, and there needs to be transparent accounting of these funds. The Village of Antioch pushed back asking if all taxing bodies agreed to this, which is why District 34 is

seeking our general support at this time. A discussion was held on the subject.

Susan Moore motioned that the Library provides general support for District 34's Term Sheet for IGA Offer to Village of Antioch re: Marketplace Redevelopment Project Area/TIF District. Toni Leprich seconded. On a roll call vote: Robert Altman, aye; Ryan Haley, aye; Paul Hettich, aye; Toni Leprich, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Susan Moore, aye. Motion passed.

B. Schedule Strategic Planning Team meeting Tues., Dec. 17, 1pm

Toni Leprich motioned to schedule the Strategic Planning Team meeting for Tuesday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m., Paul Hettich seconded. All voted aye.

C. Personal Property Replacement Tax allocation from Antioch Township

Jennifer Drinka explained that she had contacted the Antioch Township to confirm for the auditors what percentage of the personal property replacement tax allocation distributed to the Township by the State of Illinois the Library receives. She was subsequently approached by Tom Shaughnessy, Antioch Township Supervisor, at a recent TIF meeting, who questioned why the Township needs to pay the Library anything at all. He added that he's contacted his attorney to see about not having to continue making these payments. This prompted Jennifer to seek advice from our attorney regarding the matter, who asked if the Library is being unfairly targeted and how aggressive or passive we want to be. Both Jennifer Drinka and Susan Moore have been working on this, with Susan locating documents that prove we are legally entitled to these funds. Susan explained the history behind these tax allocations and the topic was discussed. Paul Hettich and Ryan Haley suggested we let it be for now, and revisit things if they stop sending checks. Jennifer replied that the Library continues to receive checks, and in fact just received one recently. All agreed that we should verify the accuracy of future payments by

asking the Township for the appropriate documentation, such as a payment schedule or annual distribution sheet from the state.

Paul Hettich motioned that the Library requests from Antioch Township a copy of the appropriate documentation that they receive from the state. Robert Altman seconded. On a roll call vote: Robert Altman, aye; Ryan Haley, aye; Paul Hettich, aye; Toni Leprich, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Susan Moore, aye. Motion passed.

XI. Closed Session

Ryan Haley motioned we go into closed session to discuss probable, imminent, or pending litigation against, on behalf of, or affecting the Library District, as well as to discuss the Executive Library Director's evaluation, at 8:34 p.m. Paul Hettich seconded. On a roll call vote: Robert Altman, aye; Ryan Haley, aye; Paul Hettich, aye; Toni Leprich, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Susan Moore, aye.

Came out of closed session at 9:15 p.m.

XII. Potential Action Resulting from Closed Session

Toni Leprich motioned to move the Executive Library Director's Evaluation to the January 2025 Board Meeting. Paul Hettich seconded. All voted aye.

Robert Altman motioned that we go with Utica to handle the legal proceedings going forward, with the stipulation that we will revisit at the conclusion. Paul Hettich seconded. On a roll call vote: Robert Altman, aye; Ryan Haley, aye; Paul Hettich, aye; Toni Leprich, aye; Becky Masik, aye; Susan Moore, aye. Motion passed.

XIII. Adjournment

Toni Leprich moved and Paul Hettich seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. All voted aye.

Susan Moore, Secretary