

PARK FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 18, 2017

The regular meeting of the Park Forest Public Library Board of Trustees opened at 7:03 pm.

STAFF PRESENTATION ON THE LIBRARY GARDENS

Acquisitions and Outreach Specialist Victoria Wittig gave a presentation on the library gardens. She passed around an herb bucket for the Board to see some of the plants that would go into the garden. She also showed the Board a bouquet made from dried herbs from the garden last year. Books from the Earth Wise collection are used to develop the new gardens. Ms. Wittig has planned programs and presentations to teach patrons about gardening with purpose.

SWEARING IN OF TRUSTEES

Village Clerk Sheila McGann swore in the newly elected trustees: Beverly Helm, Sevena Merchant, and Joseph Woods.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Park Forest Public Library Board Members: Sevena Merchant, Linda Marron, Felicia Rangel, Sandra Flowers, Beverly Helm, and Joseph Woods

Park Forest Public Library Staff: George Manno, Jennifer Oosterbaan, Millie Robles, Renee Wick-Brink, Victoria Wittig, Katherine Henderson, and Mary VanSwol

Olympia Fields Public Library Board Member: Sherry Demian

Also present: Sheila McGann, Doris Woods, Patricia Davis, Jerome Brown, Anthony A. Haqq, and Toni Cox

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Trustee Marron nominated Trustee Merchant for president.

Trustee Rangel seconded.

The Board elected Trustee Merchant as president.

Trustee Rangel nominated Trustee Marron for vice president.

Trustee Flowers seconded.

The Board elected Trustee Marron as vice president.

Trustee Marron nominated Trustee Rangel for secretary.
Trustee Flowers seconded.
The Board elected Trustee Rangel as secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2017, were approved as distributed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Library Director Osuch passed around the sharing basket of flyers. The next book for the practical application circle is *Make Your Bed*. The Earth Wise book discussion selection is *Upstream*.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Library Director Osuch had nothing to note.

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

President Merchant welcomed Joseph Woods to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Rangel will serve as a mentor for Trustee Woods. President Merchant also welcomed Trustee Demian from the Olympia Fields Library Board. The vacancy on the Board is being advertised, and interviews will be set up. After the appointment of the final Board member, the Board will form committees.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

Library Director Osuch discussed the parking lot redevelopment plan. A decision will need to be made at the June meeting to keep the project on track. Several departments of the Village have reviewed the plans. The scope of the plan has expanded to reconfigure the parking lot for two-way traffic as well as replacing sidewalks and installing a drive-up book drop. The total project cost is now estimated at \$146,000. The parking lot project would start at the end of September. The Aquacenter will be closed at that time so their parking lot could be used by patrons and staff.

Trustee Marron expressed concern about widening the parking lot island. She stated that there is limited parking for senior citizens who are not disabled. Library Director Osuch stated that the plan increases the parking by two spaces. Trustee Marron asked about relocating the parking for veterans. Staff member George Manno stated that the spaces for veterans could be moved since there is no mandate for them. Trustee Rangel asked for a walkthrough of the plan before the Board votes. Library Director Osuch noted that she would have the drawings next week.

Trustee Marron thanked the staff for installing the new railing on the ramp by the backdoor.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Olympia Fields: No report

Friends: No report

Finance: No report

Village: Trustee Marron attended the Village Board meeting. Nurses Plus celebrated 65 years. There was a proclamation about the Leadership Group.

REPORT OF THE OLYMPIA FIELDS PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Sherry Demian noted that their board has three openings. The Board is forming a focus group of Olympia Fields residents.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

President Merchant asked Trustee Helm to chair a committee to work on a strategic plan. Trustee Woods volunteered to join the committee. Trustee Marron and Trustee Rangel also volunteered for the committee.

EXPLORATORIUM

Library Director Osuch stated that this project should be rolled over with the strategic planning. The Board discussed study room usage and noise levels.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Helm asked about locations for Little Free Libraries. Library Director Osuch stated that locations have already been identified by Village Hall, and a firefighter has volunteered to build a Little Free Library. One will go in front of Village Hall, one by the bus stop at Main and Forest, and one by the train station. Trustee Helm would like a Little Free Library by one of the schools. President Merchant stated that the schools all have their own libraries. Trustee Rangel suggested one by Victory Centre. Trustee Flowers suggested starting with two locations and expanding over time. A member of the Friends of the Library has volunteered to be a steward for the new Little Free Libraries. The Library purchased two Little Free Libraries with money from the sale of unused items.

Trustee Rangel asked about the financial system. The Board will ask Mary Dankowski at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Rangel moved to adjourn.
Trustee Flowers seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.