

AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

President Angela Neeley called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Akron-Summit County Public Library to order at 4:30 pm in the Lolita K. Adair Board Room of the Main Library. The following members of the Board answered the roll call: James Casey, Joseph Ferrise, Angela Neeley, William Rich, Bernie Rochford, and Ray Weber. John Frola, Jr. was absent. Present from Library staff were Pamela Hickson-Stevenson, Michelle Scarpitti, Michelle Alleman, Carrie Burrier, Andrea Cowgar, Mike Derr, Cheryl Engel, Pat Manning, Ryan McCoy, Brett Neff, Heather Otto, Mary Plazo, Pam Plumley, Peter Schantz, and Val Sherman.

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Casey, to adopt the February 23, 2023 agenda. The motion was adopted without dissent.

23-19
AGENDA

Mr. David Lieberth, Executive Secretary for the Akron Bicentennial Commission spoke to the Board giving an update on the Akron History Center, a leading edge for the upcoming Akron Bicentennial Celebration. This will be an enduring, free, high-quality exhibit of Akron's history. The targeted opening date is December 2023, before Akron's Bicentennial in 2025. Mr. Lieberth estimates 200,000 visitors annually to the Center. The City of Akron is the primary partner. The City owns an easement to the building so that it functions as a corridor between Lock Four and Main Street. The Akron-Summit County Public Library is the primary operational partner and will provide oversight and an institutional presence in perpetuity. The incorporated Center will pay the common area maintenance fees of approximately \$2,000 per month to the Bowery Development, and the Library will pay for the electricity, which will power the lights and display screens in the History Center. The Center currently has \$1,220,000, either in hand or committed to this project. Requests are out for another \$300,000 in donations. There will be no admission charge at the History Center, but there will be donation box. A Diamond Business Guild will be launched in April. There are 105 entities in Akron, which have been in business for 60 years or more, that could become members of this guild.

AKRON HISTORY
CENTER
PRESENTATION

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Weber, to adopt the minutes of both the January Organizational Meeting and the January Regular Board Meeting, both occurring on January 26, as amended. Ms. Scarpitti requested a change that the new fund be listed as #303, the Note Retirement Fund. The motion was adopted without dissent. Mr. Rochford abstained.

23-20
JANUARY
ORGANIZATIONAL
AND REGULAR
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Ms. Neeley asked for a discussion of the Board's committee structure. Mr. Rich stated that the committees have been useful. He thinks the Board should continue to use them. Ms. Neeley then suggested an ad hoc committee to update the Board By-laws. She distributed sign-up sheets and asked the Board members to indicate their committee preferences on the sheets.

PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS

Michelle Scarpitti, Fiscal Officer, presented the executive summary and financial report for January 2023. Most revenue was from the PLF. Ms. Scarpitti stated that a new fund, #303, has been established. It is the Note Retirement Fund.

JANUARY 2023
FINANCIAL
REPORT

The receipt in the fund was a portion of the January PLF Distribution, and will update to the new fund rather than to the General Fund.

23-21
ADOPTION OF
FINANCIAL
REPORT

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Rochford, to adopt the financial report of January 2023. The motion was adopted without dissent.

Ms. Scarpitti stated that since the last meeting, the Library received \$10,926.99 in monetary donations and one page of other donations.

DONOR/GIFT LIST

Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Executive Director, reminded the Board that the donation from Chris Butler has occurred for several years. He wrote the song Christmas Wrapping, which the Waitresses recorded. When it is played on the radio during the holiday season, Chris donates money to the Library when the first person to hear the song notifies him. She also explained that the donation listed from the Council of Friends is actually from a foundation that only donates to 501 (c) 3 organizations. The Council possesses that designation so they accepted the donation and passed it on to the Library.

23-22
DONATIONS &
GIFTS

Mr. Rochford moved, seconded by Mr. Rich, to accept the donations with great appreciation. The motion was adopted without dissent.

Ms. Scarpitti presented the January investment report, which showed the Library received \$64,838.73 of interest, with approximately 62% of it credited to the General Fund. There were no changes to the Library's investments.

JANUARY 2023
INVESTMENT
REPORT

Heather Otto, Human Resources Director, presented the personnel report for February. She stated there were no changes to the report. She highlighted the retirement of Melani Fragge, who was the founding Branch Manager of the Springfield-Lakemore Branch.

PERSONNEL
REPORT

AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Personnel Report – February 2023

RESIGNATIONS:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Parms, Terita	Public Service Assistant II	02/03/2023	Mobile Services

SELECTIONS:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Bowman, Andrew	Akron Police Officer	01/26/2023	Security
Cox, Russell	Akron Police Officer	01/25/2023	Security
Curtin, Brian	Akron Police Officer	01/30/2023	Security
Moore, Chris	Public Service Assistant II	01/30/2023	Fairlawn-Bath
Natko, Lauri	Akron Police Officer	01/26/2023	Security
Patrick, Valerie	PSA III/Librarian Intermediate Teen	02/13/2023	Odom

CHANGE OF CLASSIFICATION (STATUS)/TRANSFER:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Buzek, Madison	Public Service Assistant II (Odom)	02/13/2023	Kenmore

RETIREMENTS:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Fragge, Melani	Branch Manager	04/01/23	Springfield-Lakemore

03/09/2015 - 11/05/17, Teen Librarian, Youth Services Office
 11/06/17 - 04/01/2023, Branch Manager, Springfield-Lakemore

NUMBER OF STAFF MEMBERS

	<u>06.16.09</u>	<u>06.09.10</u>	<u>02.20.19</u>	<u>02.17.20</u>	<u>02.16.21</u>	<u>02.15.22</u>	<u>02.05.23</u>
Full-Time Staff:	291	270	272	268	249	254	251
80 Hrs. Exempt:					44	41	43
75 Hrs. Non-Exempt:					205	213	208
Part-time/Job-Share Staff:	68	54	48	44	37	43	40
Student Assistants:	86	73	75	80	50	43	52
Total number of Staff:	445	397	395	392	336	340	343
Full-Time Equivalent:	339	307	306	302	273	280	277

NOTE: These numbers cannot be compared from month to month for the following reason: the numbers may not reflect additions and deletions to the payroll system as the changes are made immediately prior to or after the date the personnel action is effective.

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Rochford, adoption of the personnel report. The motion was accepted without dissent. 23-23
PERSONNEL
REPORT

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson reported the draft of the Akron History Center agreement included in the Board’s packet was ready for a vote of the Board. She stated that Mr. Lieberth was very responsive regarding the common area maintenance fees. She emphasized that the agreement does not call for a full-time Library employee at the Center but for a full-time employee to support and oversee the Center who will also work at the Library. There may be more issues to explore, such as the Library serving as a fiscal agent. This would not be necessary if and until the Center goes out of business as an incorporated entity and the Library takes over the entire functioning of the Center. EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR’S
REPORT
AKRON HISTORY
CENTER

Mr. Rochford stated the Center is a natural fit with the Library. Ms. Scarpitti suggested adding to the second bullet point about the Library acting as fiscal agent the phrase “when needed.”

Mr. Rochford moved, seconded by Mr. Rich, that the Library enter into the Real Estate License Agreement as amended with “when needed.” The motion was adopted without dissent. 23-24
AKRON HISTORY
CENTER
AGREEMENT

Mr. Casey asked how future expenses for the Center would be handled, as the Library has its own needs and expenses. Mr. Lieberth stated he is hopeful and intent on raising funds to take care of those expenses. In addition, the City of Akron has permanent easement on the building, and ultimately is responsible for the costs.

He stated there are a dozen or more organizations in Akron that receive support from the City. Mr. Rochford also reminded everyone that the Library has an opt-out after five years.

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson spoke of her concerns regarding Ohio House Bill 1. HB 1 contains some devastating changes to how funding is handled for local governments, such as public libraries, counties, townships, cities and school districts. The first change is to eliminate the current structure of the Ohio personal income tax and move to a flat tax of 2.75%. The Ohio Library Council has estimated that this change could reduce the PLF by \$25.5 to \$34 million each fiscal year. Other changes proposed in HB 1 would affect local property tax levies by eliminating the 10% rollback and the homestead exemption, reducing the assessment value on both Class 1 (residential) and Class 2 (commercial) property by 10%, and automatically adjusting a homeowner's property tax down when their home's value goes up.

HOUSE BILL 1

Ms. Hickson-Stevenson hopes that Board members will be able to attend Library Legislative Day on April 26. Mr. Rochford asked if there is any sense of how likely the bill is to pass, in either this form or some other. She responded she senses a strong desire in Ohio's General Assembly to reduce taxes. She does not know if the final language will be as comprehensive as what is being proposed but believes there will be some reduction in funding.

There were no Board Committee reports.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

There was no new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Michelle Alleman, Deputy Director, shared information about a new software platform called Beanstack. Libraries use it run reading programs. This has been a big undertaking, and she recognized the team that helped get it together. Pat Manning, Brett Neff, Carrie Burrier, KT Mockensturm, and Emily Spitale represent the public services staff on the team. The Marketing Communications and IT Departments also played big roles in deploying Beanstack. The first challenge will run from April 3 through April 30. This will encourage and track reading and will encourage participants to engage in different activities and services as well. While it will not be used for this summer's reading program, it will be used in the summer of 2024, along with a winter reading program, the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, a Sesquicentennial Program, and other options.

ADMINISTRATIVE
TEAM REPORT

There were no requests for public participation.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

There were no comments for the good of the order.

FOR THE GOOD
OF THE ORDER

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary