

Fremont Public Library District  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
March 16, 2023

1. Call to Order  
President Hoenig called to order the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Library Trustees for the Fremont Public Library District at 6:01 p.m.
2. Roll call:  
Trustees Present: Jay Kasten, Laurie MacKay, Brenda Pathmann, Amber Reid-Schwenk, Sharon Smogor and Steve Hoenig  
Absent: Jodie Nalezny  
Also Present: Scott Davis, Director; Becky Ingram, Assistant Director
3. Pathmann made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Kasten. The motion passed by voice vote.
4. Public comment – none.
5. Secretary’s Report  
5.1 Pathmann made a motion to approve minutes of the regular monthly meeting of February 16, 2023; seconded by Smogor. The motion passed by voice vote.
6. Treasurer’s Report  
6.1 MacKay presented the monthly Finance Report for February 2023. Hoenig noted that the tax revenue receipts are now close to 100%.  
6.2 MacKay made a motion to approve lists of checks, payment of bills and salaries, and transfers for March 2023; seconded by Kasten. The roll was called:  
Yes: Kasten, MacKay, Pathmann, Reid-Schwenk, Smogor, and Hoenig  
Absent: Nalezny  
The motion passed.
7. Committee Reports  
7.1 Finance Committee – no report  
7.2 Personnel Committee – no report  
7.3 Physical Facilities Committee – no report  
7.4 Policy and Planning Committee – Davis commented on the addition of single line to the Fiscal Accountability policy to comply with a question on the DCEO grant application. The addition is that “All purchases for goods and services shall be reasonable, necessary and prudent.”
8. President’s Report  
8.1 Hoenig called for a Personnel Committee meeting to be held prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees in April to conduct the Library Director’s annual performance.  
8.2 Kasten remarked that the Friends have a supply of materials to sell in the Book Nook that will need to last them until the work in the Shell Space is finished and they can again access their storage area.
9. Director’s Report  
9.1 Davis gave update on remodeling project and the Board took a brief tour of the second floor construction area. Davis noted that budgetary constraints led to some furnishings being removed from the main scope of the project, with the intent that they could be added on towards the end of the project as funding becomes available. However, Davis reported that new meeting room chairs and study tables will be purchased now using existing funds from the regular annual budget’s Capital Furnishings line. The chairs and tables are the same as ones we have been using for years in private study rooms and for seating by the computer carrells, so the quality is already known and the price extremely affordable.

- 9.2 Davis reported that the County sent out Economic Interest notifications which should have been received by all Trustees by now.
  - 9.3 Anti-book banning legislation contained in Illinois House Bill 2789 passed and was sent to the Senate. It would deny state funding to any library that does not have policies stating they adhere to ALA Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements. While pleased that the state is taking action to strengthen protections for libraries and librarians, Davis expressed concerns about unintended consequences since the bill was passed without consultation with library representatives and has language which needs to be tightened.
  - 9.4 Davis shared an opinion piece from the Daily Herald written by former Governor, Secretary of State and State Librarian Jim Edgar lamenting “misinformation and disinformation” and stressing that “divisive politics have no place in our schools and libraries”.
  - 9.5 Legislative meet-up with State Senator Edly-Allen has been rescheduled for April 13 at 8:00 a.m. at the Zion-Benton Public Library District.
  - 9.6 CCS reported that a member library had been hacked. Forensic investigations revealed that no shared patron data at CCS was compromised.
  - 9.7 Correspondence was received from the US Department of Justice regarding a short reduction of sentence for the person convicted of stealing payroll taxes. Still no word on when/if we can expect to receive any restitution for the stolen tax dollars.
  - 9.8 Davis reported that a patron contacted him asking the library to remove all books written in Russian in retaliation for the war in the Ukraine. Davis responded that those materials are part of a display new books published in various foreign languages spoken by people who live in district, and no, they will not be removed from the collection. When challenged about there being no need for such items in this community, Davis pointed out that the foreign language with the most materials checked out from the library in 2022 were in Russian.
  - 9.9 New housing developments were announced for the downtown Mundelein Village Hall circle area featuring rental units with modern amenities at market rate. The library will not be negotiating directly with the developer; the Village conducted the negotiations on behalf of the various units of government impacted by the development and determined the developer fees we will get.
  - 9.10 Davis noted the new Board will be seated at the May regular monthly meeting.
  - 9.11 Kasten asked if there is a timetable for finding out about the DCEO grant. Davis replied that all he can verify is the application packet has been received and is in processing. Davis noted that then entire amount will be spent on flooring and not split up among other parts of the project.
10. Other Business
- 10.1. Pathmann made a motion to approve revised Fiscal Accountability Policy; seconded by Smogor. The roll was called:  
Yes: Kasten, MacKay, Pathmann, Reid-Schwenk, Smogor, and Hoenig  
Absent: Nalezny  
The motion passed.
11. Hoenig made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.; seconded by Kasten. The motion passed by voice vote.

Approved 04/20/2023

/s/Sharon Smogor, Secretary pro tem