

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Olian, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Rich Basofin, Rob Biederman, Alicia De La Cruz, Irene Hoffman, Rebecca Nathanson, Ashley Lapin Olian, Rob Olian, Carol Wolfe, Peter Zotos

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jill Alfrejd, City Councilmember Tony Blumberg, Hannah Higgins, Dr. Cary Rositas-Sheftel, Darren Schretter, Heidi Smith, Pamela Siegel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Lapin Olian moved and Trustee Wolfe seconded a motion to approve the June 18, 2024 regular meeting minutes, June Bill List, and the June Financial Reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Basofin, Biederman, De La Cruz, Hoffman, Nathanson, Lapin Olian, Olian, Wolfe, Zotos

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Hannah Higgins shared thoughts about the decrease of accessible green space on the west side of the Library in the current expansion design.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Olian's report included the following:

- President Olian explained that the new seating configuration of the meeting was done to enhance the listening experience. He asked trustees to speak up when talking and raise their hands if they're unable to hear so the speaker will know to talk louder.
- The Library received a Public Construction Grant of \$125,000.
- Item number seven on the agenda needs to be deferred.
- President Olian welcomed Councilmember Blumberg, who is attending the meeting as an alternate City Council liaison.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Smith's report included the following:

- The Library was awarded a \$125,000 Public Library Construction Grant from the office of the Secretary of State and Illinois State Library. Executive Director Smith mentioned that in addition to other goals of the expansion project, one goal is to improve and expand space for archival collections, including the 2022 Highland Park Shooting Collection. The Collection was established with support from another grant from the Illinois State Library for \$24,000 to support the development of the physical collection, the digital collection, and an oral history project.
- Dr. Rositas-Sheftel reported that Social Services received a \$4,000 grant from the Highland Park Community Foundation to provide mental health first-aid training and self-care/psycho-social education sessions focused on recognizing and responding to trauma.

- Dr. Rositas-Sheftel stated that in partnership with the Highland Park Resiliency team, two “Create Your Own Luminaria” programs were provided with 29 attendees.
- As a follow-up to the budget discussion of assumptions last month, Director Smith reported that the City confirmed that budgeting a 5% increase for health insurance and staff increases is a good standard to use.

ARCHITECTURAL LIAISONS

President Olian introduced Darren Schretter, Studio GC architect, to share an updated presentation on the design development of the expansion. He shared floor plans and inspirational color mood boards with paint colors, carpet, and flooring samples. In addition, Mr. Schretter showed new renderings of the exterior stone. Samples of the materials are available for the trustees to view and give feedback.

Executive Director Smith summarized staff opinions after viewing samples received to date. Comments included: warm and welcoming, too much orange, youth colors should be more exciting and pop, meeting room carpet (love or hate), and looks like a coffee shop (positive and negative).

Trustee Lapin Olian asked if the expansion is a sustainable design that would qualify for a LEED rating. Mr. Schretter responded that the LEED rating was not negotiated as part of the contract. LEED certification requires a very expensive geothermal energy system which isn’t currently in the budget.

Mr. Schretter continued his presentation with an overview of projected construction and material costs.

President Olian reported that the public continues to make comments about the removal of green space to the west side of the Library. He and Trustee Wolfe will continue to meet with people to help them understand why the expansion is going west.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Hoffman reported that the Committee continues to meet to refine statements and policies. Executive Director Smith and Communications Manager Jill Alfrejd are working on a final version of the case statement. The Committee will start asking for more names of people who might be interested in participating to expand the list of donors/supporters. The Donor Recognition Policy is almost done; a draft will be sent to the Policy Committee soon.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Zotos moved and Trustee Biederman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. President Olian, presiding, adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Basofin, Biederman, De La Cruz, Hoffman, Nathanson, Lapin Olian, Olian, Wolfe, Zotos

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by: Pamela Siegel

Reviewed by: Heidi Smith, Rebecca Nathanson

Approved: August 20, 2024