

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Carol Wolfe, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Members Absent: Alicia De La Cruz, Rob Olian

Others Present: Catherine Lambrecht, Julia Nathanson, Cary Rositas-Sheftel, Heidi Smith, Kim Stone

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Lapin Olian moved and Trustee Basofin seconded a motion to approve the August 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes, August Bill List, and the August Financial Reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Basofin, Biederman, Hoffman, Nathanson, Lapin Olian, Wolfe, Zotos

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Vice-President Wolfe's report included the following:

- President Olian and Director Smith met with the Historical Society and made some progress moving through a new Memorandum of Understanding. A revised draft will be provided to the Society and the City, and they will give a redline back before our next meeting to be scheduled in October.
- Director Smith and the team are developing a strategic plan bridging document to be presented to the Board when finalized. The document will evaluate the progress made on the existing Strategic Plan and identify a few core objectives to get us through the next couple of years while the expansion is in progress. A complete strategic plan will be created in 2027.
- A productive meeting was held with Friends of Highland Park Public Library President Suzanne Zeig to strengthen collaboration on fundraising for the Friends' and Library's future campaigns.
- President Olian and Director Smith presented the budget to the City Council in August. No questions were received. Positive feedback was received after the meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Smith's report included the following:

- Director Smith attended the September 9th City Council meeting in support of the mayoral proclamations in recognition of Banned Books Week and Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Director Smith provided a tour of the Library and summary of the expansion project to new City Councilmember Barisa Meckler Bruckman.

- Director Smith met with a resident regarding concerns over the expansion project, particularly around preserving green spaces.
- Addressed a community member's concern about a book in the picture book section; following a review, it was decided to keep the book in its original place. The Library's policy and supporting procedures were successful.
- Last September, the Board reviewed the statistics that are shared with the Board throughout the year. It was recommended that if any Trustee would like to continue that discussion, they should let President Olian and Director Smith know prior to the October meeting.
- The Library is exploring Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications following a staff training, discussion, and summary. Programs for the public on AI are scheduled for October and November.
- The Library is expanding cooperation with the City's Resiliency Division to provide office hours for Madeline Kati, LCSW, to meet with the community. The partnership includes programs as well.
- Key staff are reviewing the Circulation Policy and will recommend creating special library cards for teachers to access digital resources more effectively.
- Police were on site twice last month, once related to a missing staff wallet, and once when they were looking for someone unrelated to the Library. One patron was suspended for 30 days due to inappropriate behavior.

ARCHITECTURAL LIAISONS

Vice-President Wolfe reported that we met with the architects a couple of weeks ago...

- The Library is working with architects on improving the color scheme for youth and adult sections and refining exterior designs.
- CCS International's assessment of the estimate provided by Studio GC is still in progress.
- Several residents have expressed concern over losing green space for the library expansion; conversations are ongoing to address these concerns.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Zotos moved and Trustee Hoffman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Wolfe, presiding, adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Basofin, Biederman, Hoffman, Nathanson, Lapin Olian, Wolfe, Zotos

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by: Heidi Smith

Reviewed by: Rebecca Nathanson

Approved: October 15, 2024