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CITY OF KNOXVILLE

December 7, 2021

Knoxville Public Library Board of Trustees

The December meeting of the KPL Board of Trustees was called to order by President Doug Slaton. In attendance were Trustees Peck, Nichols, Eagle, Flesner, Breeden, and Garrison. Mayor Myers and Alderman Eiker were also in attendance.

The Secretary's Report: Doug Slaton read the November minutes and the trustees approved the minutes as read.

The Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pam Eagle explained the monthly transactions while each trustee reviewed their copy. After discussion, Ann Peck made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; motion was seconded by Debbie Nichols, and the remaining trustees unanimously agreed. Bills were presented for approval and payment. After review, Ann Peck made a motion to pay the bills; Rose Garrison seconded the motion and unanimous Board approval followed.

The Librarian's Report was read by Michelle Walker and she reported an accident by employee Joan Leedham, resulting in an ER visit and follow-up care being indicated. She was unable to work for three weeks and has not been cleared to return to work until December 13, 2021. Marty Sterr has begun plaster work on the east portion of the library ceiling, but he is trying to minimize dust by sealing off the stacks with clear plastic sheeting. Property tax money was received, our last allocation for the year. Memorial money sent from the Knoxville Senior Women's Club in the amount of \$30 honored Knoxville citizens who have recently passed.

Unfinished Business: Discussion regarding the vacated board seat and potential changes of the by-laws was preceded by an address by Mayor Myers. Mayor Myers stated that when letters complaining about discriminatory statements at our November board meeting by Doug Slaton were discussed in committee, they determined after consulting with the City attorney that since no motions or voting had followed the discriminatory statements, that no violation of rights had taken place. No KPL employees, trustees, or representatives were present at this meeting. Mayor Myers called for all of the trustees to move forward and accept the apology which had been offered by Doug Slaton after making these remarks.

Myers went on to encourage examination of our by-laws and making changes to update effective policies. Following this statement, Penny Flesner stated that there were guidelines in the Trustees Facts File which could update our policies and procedures. For instance, they recommend a two year appointment for offices, rather than an indefinite term. In addition, she asked the Board to consider leaving the one year membership prior to office holding policy in place, since it protects KPL from seating individuals not yet having a firm foundation of our procedures and practices. Flesner also stated that she was willing to temporarily resume the role of secretary until new trustees reach the one year service anniversary and become eligible for offices.

Penny Flesner asked the KPL Board of Trustees to consider Kaarina Stanley as a potential trustee. No other statements were read or candidates nominated for discussion

New Business: A motion by Doug Slaton, seconded by Pam Eagle, and receiving unanimous trustee approval, approved of approaching Kaarina Stanley to fill our vacant Board seat. Rae Slaton made a motion, seconded by Debbie Nichols, and receiving unanimous trustee approval, providing for the review of bylaws, article by article, to implement, adjust, or replace the guidelines they recommend. During the January, 2022 KPL Board of Trustees meeting, this process will begin with Article 1.

Maintenance: In addition to the maintenance provided in The Librarian's Report, lights that have burned out or flicker will be replaced or ballasts repaired by Marty Sterr. ~~Phil~~ Myers set the clock outside the library during the past month.

<sup>Tom</sup>  
With no further business to come before the KPL Board of Trustees, the meeting was adjourned by Doug Slaton at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Flesner, Acting Secretary