

TINLEY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 22, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dami Ajasa
Brad Daniels, Treasurer
Leah Herman
Darren Meyers-Arrived Late
Gina Miller, Vice-President
Elizabeth Stern, Secretary
Laura Hess-Wojcik, President

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT

Zach Musil, Director
Sarah Schroeder, Assistant Director
Lyn Williams, Business Office Manager
Jennifer Schulien, Business Office Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Tinley Park Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST/AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Jerry Pilipowicz from SMP Projects was in attendance. Paige Sullivan, YAC member, was present. Caroline Lilly, a member of the public, was present. Dennis Walsh from Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-President Miller motioned to move Item 8 i. (Prairie Garden & Story Walk Project Updates, with SMP Projects' Civil Engineer Jerry Pilipowicz) to after the approval of the agenda. Trustee Herman seconded. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion carried. President Hess-Wojcik found Item 10 a. (Motion to Remove Secretary Stern from Office) Out of Order and it was stricken from the agenda. Trustee Herman motioned to move 8 j (Youth Advisory Council Report) to after 8 i. Trustee Ajasa seconded. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried. Treasurer Daniels motioned to strike Item 9 b. (Discussion of Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins Services to the Tinley Park Public Library) from the agenda because Trustee Meyers was not present, and this was requested by him. Trustee Herman seconded. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion

carried. President Hess-Wojcik took a final vote to approve all the changes to the agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Prairie Garden & Story Walk Project Updates, with SMP Projects 'Civil Engineer Jerry Pilipowicz Available to Answer MWRD/WMO Permitting Process Questions.

Mr. Pilipowicz shared he has been working with Site Design on the MWRD process. We are currently in the third round of review and waiting to hear back. He explained this is a lengthy process and takes time. Trustee Meyers arrived at 6:35pm. Trustee Meyers asked why a WMO was needed. Mr. Pilipowicz explained they were not sure if it would be needed because this is a smaller project. Trustee Meyers does not like pronouns and asked Mr. Pilipowicz who “we” are. He shared “we” was himself, Site Design, and the Village Engineer. Trustee Meyers asked if there was an encroachment into the riparian area. Mr. Pilipowicz said yes. Trustee Meyers repeatedly interrupted Mr. Pilipowicz. President Hess-Wojcik instructed Trustee Meyers to let him speak. Trustee Meyers continued to interrupt Mr. Pilipowicz as he tried to explain the situation. President Hess-Wojcik declared Trustee Meyers out of order. Trustee Meyers disregarded President Hess-Wojcik’s ruling and continued to speak over Mr. Pilipowicz and President Hess-Wojcik. President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order repeatedly, but Trustee Meyers continued to speak and disregard the ruling.

Mr. Pilipowicz clarified that someone on the team reached out to MWRD to inquire as to whether the WMO permit would be required if the project area was moved slightly out of the riparian area. The response from MWRD was that the permit would have been needed even if the project was moved further from the riparian area. Trustee Meyers raised his voice and said the Board was wasting time and they were slow and could not understand the situation as well as he could, which is why he was asking the questions. Trustee Meyers wanted to know if there was a paper trail or anything in writing stating a WMO would still be needed even if the project was moved. Mr. Pilipowicz does not believe there is an email trail or anything in writing. Trustee Meyers asked if anything was found if it could be shared with him and not the library directors because he does not feel they are asking the right questions. President Hess-Wojcik asked why Trustee Meyers wanted this information. Trustee Meyers responded: “I want this to impugn our Director and Deputy Director for making ill-begotten, ill-advised decisions that delayed the construction of this project beyond 18 months.” Treasurer Daniels asked if he could ask a question and Trustee Meyers said no. Treasurer Daniels continued and asked hypothetically if the project had been moved would it be finished by now. Mr. Pilipowicz did not believe the project would be done. Documents and permits would be done and some of the construction possibly, but the project would not be finished. The Board thanked Mr. Pilipowicz for his time.

Youth Advisory Council Report.

Paige Sullivan gave her report about the Youth Advisory Council. The Lock-In was held recently though she was not in attendance. The Lock-In had a western theme and everyone had a good time. At a recent meeting, many suggestions were given about possible program ideas to go along with the Summer Reading Program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the December 4, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Trustee Meyers motioned to approve the December 4, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes with modifications. No second was made. Motion died. Trustee Herman motioned to approve the December 4, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as is. Treasurer Daniels seconded. Trustee Meyers inquired about an intergovernmental agreement with the Village that appeared in the minutes. Director Musil indicated that it does not appear in the agenda. President Hess-Wojcik attempted to call for a vote on the minutes. Trustee Meyers continued to speak over her, remarking that the minutes stated, "Discussion took place" and said, referring to Business Office Assistant Jen Schulien, "I'm sorry, Madame Notetaker did not write down what the discussion was... Sounds like our minute-taker needs to start taking notes." President Hess-Wojcik called for a vote. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approval of the December 4, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Daniels motioned to approve the December 4, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Trustee Meyers seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence to the Orland Hills Public Library District was noted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Approval of the November 2024 Financial Report.

Treasurer Daniels noted that there is a disparity between what Library Administration has budgeted for this fiscal year and the Library's expenditures thus far, but believes it is due to expenses related to the construction project that have yet to be incurred. Library Administration confirmed this was correct. Treasurer Daniels also made note of a negative revenue amount in the special building fund in the December 2024 Financial Report. Director Musil said this could be related to disputed property taxes, but that he would look into this further. Trustee Meyers asked "Can you make sure that gets into your Director's report, Mr. Musil? Yes or no." Director Musil said, "I will make note of it, yes." Trustee Meyers repeated his question, insisting on a yes or no answer. President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order and instructed him to address his comments to the Chair, per Robert's Rules. Trustee Meyers then insisted that President Hess-Wojcik ensure the request was fulfilled. Trustee Daniels motioned to approve the November 2024 Financial Report. Vice-President Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: Darren Meyers. Motion carried.

Approval of the December 2024 Financial Report.

Treasurer Daniels clarified that his comment about the negative revenue amount was in regard to the December 2024 Financial Report, not the November 2024 Financial Report. Treasurer Daniels motioned to approve the December 2024 Financial Report. Trustee Herman seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approval of the Bills List from 11/20/2024 through 01/10/2025 in the amount of \$936,683.76.

Trustee Herman motioned to approve the Bills List for the dates and amounts as follows: November 20, 2024 through January 10, 2025 in the dollar amount of \$936,683.76. Vice-President Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Director's Report.

Trustee Meyers asked why Director Musil did not provide information on the accounting issue. Director Musil shared Library Administration has been investigating accounting options and has budgeted for multiple scenarios. As part of this investigation, Library Administration needs to speak further with Hannah Lipman, the Assistant Village Manager/Interim Treasurer, at the Village. The Village is currently going through a large ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software transition which takes priority. Assistant Village Manager Hannah Lipman is aware of the planned discussion regarding library accounting services and will meet with Director Musil and Assistant Director Schroeder after the ERP transition. Trustee Meyers criticized the lack of progress and demanded a memo to the President outlining the ERP situation. President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order, but he continued to speak, telling Director Musil "Look, they're not going to rescue you. I'm a Trustee, and I'm asking you to provide that report, and if it's not here, it's going to show up in your performance evaluation." Director Musil said, "that's a threat, and you can't do that," to which Trustee Meyers yelled "I just did it, Director, so get your report together, and get your shit together!" President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order multiple times and multiple Board members expressed anger with Trustee Meyers' comment. Trustee Meyers ignored President Hess-Wojcik's ruling and continued speaking over everyone. Secretary Stern stood up and Trustee Meyers asked her, "Are you scared? Do you feel unsafe?". Through a lot of yelling, Vice-President Miller motioned to take a five-minute recess. Trustee Meyers seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Trustee Meyers said "I'm here. I'll be here all night." The meeting recessed at 7:10 pm.

The meeting resumed at 7:17 pm. President Hess-Wojcik reminded the Board that requests for reports must be made through a Board discussion and vote. Trustee Meyers said the Director is not fulfilling his obligations. Treasurer Daniels said that Director Musil had provided updates, and Trustee Meyers began yelling at Treasurer Daniels to read the minutes again. President Hess-Wojcik called Trustee Meyers out of order four or five times during this interaction. Treasurer Daniels stated that he did not view his request as unfulfilled. Trustee Meyers stated that he did view the request as unfulfilled. Treasurer Daniels asked about commitment term end dates on the Outsource Solutions Group invoice. Director Musil will ask at their meeting next week. Treasurer Daniels also asked about the Clarence Davids watering bill. Director Musil shared we were billed late for this. The fee for Tyler Technologies is the annual maintenance agreement. Treasurer Daniels asked whether Site Design and Clarence Davids perform different landscape maintenance. Director Musil clarified that Clarence Davids performs maintenance of the flower beds, and Site Design and Stantec are more responsible for the stewardship of

the prairie. Treasurer Daniels inquired about Lauterbach & Amen, the accounting firm that Library Administration met with. Trustee Meyers asked Board members whether they were troubled that the Library was not getting responses from the Village. Treasurer Daniels asked Director Musil to contact Hannah Lipman about her availability for a meeting and asked to be apprised of the response. Trustee Meyers asked that he also be made aware of the response. Treasurer Daniels clarified that he views the ERP transition and the accounting services as separate issues and said that there was no major material issue that is prevalent or pervasive enough to make this need to be addressed immediately. Director Musil will follow up with Hannah Lipman regarding meeting availability and update the Board accordingly.

Assistant Director's Report.

The Assistant Director's report was noted.

November 2024 Statistics.

The report was noted.

December 2024 Statistics.

Director Musil shared the circulation statistics are down 6% from last year. This decrease is system wide. Our numbers may be down some due to the renovation and circulation and door counts will be affected. The public is also really excited about the Library of Things, which may help boost circulation.

Orland Hills Board Meeting.

No report.

Staff Updates.

No report.

Building and Grounds.

Director Musil shared that the HVAC contact was replaced. The pressure test for the elevators has been scheduled for May. The bottle filling station sensor has been replaced. The drain in the kitchen sink in the break room was rodded.

Phase 1 Building Renovation Updates.

Treasurer Daniels asked if the renovation would be done by mid-summer. Director Musil shared it would be. Things are going well and drywall is going in. He and Assistant Director Schroeder walk through daily and it is exciting to see the transformation.

Friends of the Library Report.

No report.

Departmental Report.

Trustee Ajasa noted Terry Parker's discussion regarding Hoopla. It was mentioned previously that this may be downsized or removed. Trustee Ajasa inquired about what the discussion was and the plan to move forward. Director Musil shared the budget line for this will be increased with the new fiscal year. Hoopla will not be removed but are looking for ways to keep costs down. The state of Illinois and the Illinois Library Association are trying to take action to help libraries keep the costs of these platforms down. Trustee Meyers said we should look into a pay per use. Assistant Director Schroeder shared these are already pay per use. They are expensive because a lot of people use them. Treasurer Daniels asked what weeding means. Director Musil explained this is going through the collection and removing things that do not circulate or are in poor condition and should be done continuously rather than all at one time.

Program Publicity Report.

Secretary Stern is pleased with the Youth Services activities out in the public. It is good to support the community. She also likes the subscription boxes that are available. Trustee Herman agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Scheduling a Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Trustee Meyers motioned to approve a Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 26, 2025 at 6:00pm. Treasurer Daniels seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion of Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins Services to Tinley Park Public Library.

Treasurer Daniels motioned to add this discussion back to the agenda. Vice-President Miller seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Trustee Meyers requested that a contract with Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins be produced at the next meeting. President Hess-Wojcik stated that there is no formal contract. Trustee Meyers asked if there is a verbal agreement or any supporting emails. Assistant Director Schroeder explained that the library has been working with Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins since 1967. Trustee Meyers responded, "I don't give a shit," and suggested that Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins create a contract for review. President Hess-Wojcik asked Trustee Meyers if he was making a motion. Trustee Meyers declined but questioned whether any Board members were comfortable continuing without a formal contract and began to ask individual Trustees for their stance. Treasurer Daniels expressed support for a retainer or engagement letter going forward. Trustee Ajasa stated she would like to explore a contract. Attorney Walsh noted it is not uncommon for local governments to work without formal contracts for legal representation, but assured the Board that Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins would create one if requested. Turning to Trustee Herman, Trustee Meyers asked for her stance. Trustee Herman stated she trusts the library's longstanding relationship with Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, and pointed out that the presence of a library attorney at meetings stems from Trustee Meyers' behavior. Attorney Walsh attempted to share more, but Trustee Meyers told him he was not allowed to speak, shouting "I'm a voted official, and all you are is a lawyer without a contract!" President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order. Treasurer Daniels will speak to sources on his own outside of the library. Trustee Meyers persisted, directing another comment

at Trustee Herman, stating, “for Leah’s edification about contracts...” and proceeded to define “edification.” Trustee Herman responded, “I don’t need an explanation, I’m not stupid.” President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order, as he continued shouting, alleging “You have a lawyer providing advice to staff, not the Board!”

Vice-President Miller motioned to end discussion on this topic. Secretary Stern seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess- Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion to Remove Secretary Stern from Office.

Item was ruled Out of Order by President Hess-Wojcik.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Dami Ajasa- No comment.

Brad Daniels-No comment.

Leah Herman- Trustee Herman gave her thanks to Director Musil, Assistant Director Schroeder, and Business Office Assistant Jennifer Schulien for all they do for the library.

Darren Meyers-No Comment.

Gina Miller-No comment.

Elizabeth Stern-No Comment.

Laura Hess-Wojcik- President Hess-Wojcik stated there is a time and a place for profanity but it is not here in the library or in emails and she would like it to stop.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Meyers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm. Treasurer Daniels seconded. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

President