Utica Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 18th, 2024

Present: Philip A. Bean, Evon M. Ervin, Diana L. Koury, Paula J. Flisnik, Raina L. Goldbas, Linda T. Madore, Ruth A. Pugliese, Helen S. Schwartz, Anthony Spiridigloizzi Carol W. Steele, Christopher Sagaas, Sara Billman

Excused: Gabriel J. Hage, Julia A. Fernandez, F.X. Matt III, Ruth Pugliese

Philip Bean called the meeting to order.

Conflict of Interest Review

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the 3/21/2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes.

On motion of Anthony Spiridigloizzi and seconded by Raina Goldbas the 3/21/2024 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Gabe Hage is working out the transfer of the 1118 Park Avenue property with the purchaser's attorney.
- Central Paving should be arriving next week to work on the front sidewalk.
- The City is responding to several of our recent complaints about the state of the Knights of Columbus Building which continues to fall into further disrepair.

April 2024 Director's Report

Chris reviewed the Director's report of activities during the last month.

- The Library is now implementing criminal background checks as part of conditional offers of employment to prospective hires.
- Chris requested the Board approve the appointment of Bryonna Morey to the position of Part-Time Circulation Clerk.

On motion of Paula Flisnik and seconded by Linda Madore the appointment of Bryonna Morey to the position of Part-Time Circulation Clerk was unanimously approved.

- Linda asked that going forward, Chris include the resume of the new hire in the board packet prior to requesting board approval for the appointment.
- Final bid documents for the moat repairs were sent to a select list of local contractors. Chris discussed the process and plan for funding this project.
- Heidi detailed her attendance at the PLA (Public Library Association) Conference in Columbus, OH earlier this month for which she secured a CLRC (Central New York Library Resources Council) award to offset expenses for Professional Development. Heidi has been working towards performing a DEI (Diversity Equity Inclusion) Audit on The Library's collection and attended a workshop on this topic. She also further investigated her interest in programming for people with disabilities, and programming on data driven decision making for libraries.
- The Conference and Travel line item expense will also go toward Youth Services Director Amanda Stewart attending the Youth Services Section Conference and Reference Librarian, Imani Odom and other staff attending the NYLA (New York

Library Association) Conference in Syracuse in November. Chris thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of this investment in staff.

April 2024 Financial Report

Diana Koury reviewed the April Budget Report with March 2024 data.

- Total income is at \$1,314,131.
- Investments are up month-to-date.

On motion of Helen Schwartz and seconded by Carol Steele the April Budget Report was unanimously approved.

Diana reviewed the March 2024 disbursements and confirmed that all expenses \$500 and over were approved by two Board Officers prior to payment. Payroll and utilities expenses do not require prior approval.

On motion of Raina Goldbas and seconded by Anthony Spiridigloizzi the March 2024 disbursements were unanimously approved.

Chris is working with Diana and Caruso McLean to work out the details of the budgeted endowment distribution.

New Business

- Chris spoke about an event he and Evon Ervim attended at Harts Hill The Consortium for Safe Communities.
- Governance Committee will be meeting to address the three open trustee seats on the Board. Chris has several names in mind and a few conversations in the works with prospective candidates.
- The Library will be closed on Thursday, 4/25 for its annual Staff Development Day. Chris and staff will focus on Sexual Harassment Prevention Training and group discussion regarding library policies. Mid York staff will join the group to update the staff on services. Department meetings and a wellness event will round out the day's programming.

The next Regular and Annual Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16 @ 4pm.

On motion of Carol Steele and seconded by Linda Madore the Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Sara Billman