

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Swearing in of Elected Trustees Christine Kuffel, Greg Christoff and Stephanie Pedersen and Reappointed Trustees Shannon Flint, Darla Woods and John Lamberti** – Business Manager and Notary Public Allison Muzal conducted the swearing in of Christine Kuffel, Greg Christoff, Stephanie Pedersen, Darla Woods and John Lamberti. Shannon Flint was absent and will be sworn in at the next meeting.
3. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Before the meeting was called to order, President John Lamberti stated that due to Governor Pritzker’s disaster declaration 2023-06 related to public health concerns and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that an in-person meeting would not be prudent or practical and that this meeting would be held remotely. Present were President John Lamberti, Trustee Darla Woods, Trustee Stephanie Pedersen, Secretary Christine Kuffel and Treasurer Greg Christoff. Absent were Vice President Elizabeth Hunter and Trustee Shannon Flint. Also present were Director Fidencio Marbella, Assistant Director Kris Jacobson, Business Manager Allison Muzal, Adult Services Manager Patrick Callaghan and Circulation/Technical Services Manager Ryan Flores. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Lamberti.
4. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
5. **Discussion Items**
  - A. **Library Improvements** – Director Marbella reported that the Youth staff decided that replacing the Lego wall in the storytime room was not worth the estimated expense. We are still waiting, however, for the three cells in the new lighting fixtures to be replaced. He also reported on the Passive Birding programs and how the participants were excited to discover the Wolf Road Prairie and the many native wildflowers there.
  - B. **Department Manager Reports** – Circulation Manager Flores reported that we’ll be getting the free Ravinia tickets again this year and talked about the new fiction promotion for May that Heidi and Zoe from Adult came up with. Adult Manager Callaghan said that we’ve had strong interest in the Tai Chi for seniors program and that this program has started a good relationship with Aging Care Connections. Assistant Director Jacobson reported that the electronic newsletter clicks have increased from about 20 last year to over 130 this year. She also talked about an upcoming chess tournament in July and possibly having sessions on how to learn to play chess in the fall.
  - C. **Election of Library Board Officers** – Director Marbella reminded the board that at the May Regular Meeting they’ll be electing board officers.
  - D. **End of Governor Pritzker’s Emergency Orders and Resumption of In-Person Meetings** – With Governor Pritzker’s Emergency Orders related to the Covid-19 pandemic coming to an end the board will be resuming in person meetings starting with the May 22 Regular Meeting.
  - E. **Calendar Year 2024 IMRF Preliminary Rate** – The preliminary rate notice for the library’s CY 2024 IMRF contribution was issued and the rate will only increase from 5.04% to 5.37%, a much smaller increase than anticipated.
6. **Unfinished Business** – President Lamberti asked about the Park District’s Memorial Day ceremony and the library’s role in it.
7. **Board Member Comments**– none

**8. Public Comment**—none

- 9. Executive Session** – President Lamberti motioned that the Board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the library director’s annual review pursuant to Section 2. (c) (1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, seconded by Trustee Pedersen, roll call vote was taken with President Lamberti, Secretary Kuffel, Treasurer Christoff, Trustee Woods and Trustee Pedersen aye, 0 nay, 2 absent and the board entered Executive Session at 7:42 PM.

At 8:36 PM the board concluded their Executive Session and reentered Open Session.

- 10. Adjournment** – Before the meeting adjourned Treasurer Christoff asked about the “anonymous” participant that came up during the closed Executive Session. President Lamberti motioned to adjourn, seconded by Treasurer Christoff, roll call vote was taken with President Lamberti, Secretary Kuffel, Treasurer Christoff, Trustee Woods and Trustee Pedersen aye, 0 nay, 2 absent, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

**Submitted by Fidencio Marbella, Director, Westchester Public Library**