



Agenda Item #4 (a)

**Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
Douglass Branch Library • 504 E. Grove Street • Champaign
March 16, 2022**

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Blakeman.
2. Members present: Maryka Baraka, Katie Blakeman, Trisha Crowley, Michael Foellmer, Charles Lansford, Michael La Due, Rajeev Malik, and Minnie Pearson

Members absent: None

Library staff present: Donna Pittman, Amy Al-Shabibi, Jill Bouvet, Larry Damski, Essie Harris, Debbie Keith, Brittany Millington, Amanda Raklovits, and Mike Rogalla

Visitors present: Kathryn Cataldo and Chaya Sandler

3. Approve the Agenda:
 - MOTION by Malik to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Pearson. All: Aye.
4. Approve the Minutes:
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2022
 - b. Closed Session Minutes, February 16, 2022
 - MOTION by Lansford to approve both sets of minutes as presented; seconded by Pearson. All: Aye.
5. Director's Report:
 - a. Library/Studio Project Updates:
 - Pittman stated that afterschool programming and activities will begin on March 21 after spring break. The Café will return to normal hours starting April 4 with catering offered again. Adult programming will be in person in April. A few programs will continue to be virtual. An all-staff meeting is planned on May 10, the first one in person since the pandemic. Author Scott Turow will visit on May 5 on the second floor of the library.

Foellmer arrived at 5:38 p.m.

- The Studio Project is in the design phase. Flooring and carpeting samples have been provided and will be selected soon. The architects will present the design plans at the May Board meeting.

Baraka arrived at 5:41 p.m.

b. Douglass Branch Update (Essie Harris and Amanda Raklovits):

- Harris provided an update on the Champaign County African American Heritage Trail Committee that she serves on and plans for Juneteenth in partnership with the Champaign Park District. It will be held on June 18 from noon to 3 p.m. in Douglass Park.
- Raklovits talked about community engagements and partnerships focused on education programs for families.

6. Discussion of Process to Select Library Director:

- Blakeman stated that Pittman announced her retirement beginning on June 1, 2022. Blakeman has talked with City staff to discuss moving forward. The option of posting the position internally first was discussed. A national search could always be started afterwards if needed. A meeting with the Personnel Committee will be planned to develop a profile for the Library Director position.

La Due arrived at 5:52 p.m.

- Blakeman opened the topic for public comments.
- Audience member Chaya Sandler commented that with an internal search, you need to be mindful of the candidate pool.
- MOTION by Malik to move forward with an internal search for a new Library Director as discussed; seconded by Lansford. All: Aye.

7. Closing Early on May 5, 2022 for Author Appearance:

- Pittman requested the Board's approval to close the main library and Douglass Branch at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2022 to setup for author Scott Turow's appearance on the second floor of the main library at 7 p.m.
- There were no public comments.
- MOTION by Crowley to approve closing the main library and Douglass Branch at 5 p.m. on May 5, 2022 as presented; seconded by Malik. All: Aye.

8. Financial Reports:

a. Approve "Check Summary," "Check Register," and "Handwritten Checks" for February 2022:

- MOTION by Malik to file the check summary, check register, and handwritten checks for February 2022 as presented; seconded by La Due. All: Aye.
- There were no public comments.

- b. FY2021-2022 Financial Statements:
- MOTION by La Due to accept the February 2022 financials as presented; seconded by Malik. All: Aye.
 - There were no public comments.
9. Correspondence and Communications:
- Pittman read a note from a customer thanking library staff for offering services during the pandemic.
 - Lansford received a note from Gail Rost, widow of former Board member Craig Rost, who thanked the Trustees for the flowers she received.
10. Committee and Liaison Reports:
- a. Champaign Public Library Foundation Board:
- Lansford noted that the Foundation has secured funding for The Studio Project.
- b. City Council:
- Foellmer reported that the Council signed the budget. There were discussions on how to use space on Hedge Road and they are about to enter a redistricting phase.
- c. Friends of the Champaign Public Library:
- Blakeman reported that there was no meeting this month. The Friends decided to meet bimonthly instead of monthly. Their next meeting will be in April.
11. Comments from the Audience:
- None.
12. Comments from the Board:
- None.
13. Next Meetings or Events:
- Regular Meeting, April 20, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Burnham 3rd Floor Conf. Room, Main Library
 - Regular Meeting, May 18, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Burnham 3rd Floor Conf. Room, Main Library
 - Regular Meeting, June 15, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Burnham 3rd Floor Conf. Room, Main Library
14. Adjournment:
- MOTION by Malik to adjourn at 6:12 p.m.; seconded by Baraka. All: Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Blakeman, President

Michael La Due, Secretary

Jill Bouvet, Recorder