

**Quincy Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Quincy Public Library Foundation Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:58 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Trustees present: President, Dean LaVelle, Jonathan Hoover, Angela Ketteman, Lena Jones, Clairice Hetzler, and Cheryl Predmore. Absent: Harry Ruth, Megan Duesterhaus-AuBuchon, and Ben Uzelac. Others present: Executive Director, Kathleen Helsabeck and Jess Givens.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

Cheryl Predmore moved to approve the consent agenda and Angela Ketteman seconded. With no objections, the agenda was approved.

II. MEETING MINUTES

Angela Ketteman moved to approve the meeting minutes for September 12, 2023, and Cheryl Predmore seconded.

III. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dean reminded the board of the Tracy Family Foundation's Nonprofit Excellence program at The Knowledge Center at Chaddock on Thursday, October 19 and Friday, October 20. All invited members/staff were sent a SOAR survey to take and he encouraged everyone to make sure they complete it before the event to work on our library's Strategic Plan.

IV. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Ken Grawe informed the board that late FOL member, Louise Burns, who passed at the age of 107 years old, will have a memorial brick purchased in her name to be placed on the grounds. Peace is wished upon Louise and her loved ones.

Friends of the Library will also be purchasing 49 playaways for the bookstore at the cost of \$2,500.00.

The Friends of the Library book sale will be open to the public on October 12 through 14, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, and 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. They are open to taking volunteers.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A public comment that was submitted to the library stated that they came across a book by the title *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters* by *Abigail Shrier*. They suggested that considering they are a transperson, this book is very offensive and talks down on transpeople and that it is harmful to young people who are transitioning. Kathleen tried to contact the community member but was unsuccessful. The title does show on our catalog as a book that we can get from other libraries if someone requests it, but Quincy Public Library does not have this title in our collection. Ameren selected the library to receive a \$2,000 grant through Ameren's *Love Your Library* program, and we will expect to receive that soon.

VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director, Kathleen Helsabeck, informed the board that all new PCs have been installed and patrons are very satisfied. Additionally, the website/logo project is starting this week. MWB is discussing a staff person for foundation growth and marketing that both boards need to work together toward so that the shared goals are clearly defined, agreed upon, and executed. Discussion included job description, fundraising and grant writing was proposed by Dean. Clairice mentioned that the job description may need to originally be decided on by the foundation if they are to be expected to take on the responsibility of the salary. Clairice suggested a flow chart showing the expected chain of command and proposed job description of the potential candidate before we move forward on any decisions regarding the position. Jon, Cheryl, Clairice, and Dean all agree that QPL should appoint the position, but no decision has been decided on whether the library or the foundation will take the financial responsibility of the salary.

Kathleen then informed the board of our partnership with John Wood Community College’s GED classes that are held at the library on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. JWCC also offers an orientation for those who are new to the program. Aldermen Rivera and Ebbing will be visiting the library on Monday, October 16, and Alderman Reed will be visiting on Wednesday, October 18 for a lunch that will consist of a tour of the library and a discussion.

The goals and objectives of this year’s Community Read are to provide education opportunities focused on poverty, single-parenthood, and barriers to education within the community, to develop programming and events that foster dialogue and safe spaces for community members seeking to reduce the impact of said situations, to highlight materials within the library’s collection to share stories and themes expressed within the Community Read book, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive* by Stephanie Land, and to collaborate with the community members who are working with or impacted by poverty, single-parenthood, or barriers to education. October 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. is this year’s Community Read Kick-off, where the library will be giving away both *Maid* and *Dear Librarian*.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Cheryl motioned to approve the Expenditure Approval for September 18, 2023, and Clairice seconded. The roll call was as follows:

Cheryl	yes	Dean	yes
Jon	yes	Clairice	yes
Lena	yes	Angela	yes
Megan	absent	Ben	absent
Harry	absent		

Included in the board packet, Kathleen presented iCAT reports for QPL from 2018 and 2023, showing an improvement in score over the past 5 years. The 2018

report score was 61, while this year's increased to 71. Dean requested for the reports to be included in November's board packet as well for further discussion.

The library's Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 was presented to the board to show what goals were achieved, areas of the plan that were not achieved, and subjects that require some improvement. The board will review this information to further assist in the incoming Strategic Plan for 2023-2026.

Kathleen then communicated to the board the Freedom to View statement by the American Library Association in representation of Banned Book Month. The Freedom to View is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to ensure the rights of American citizens not to be censored, as liberty of circulation is essential to ensure the constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression.

Quincy Public Library received a letter from RSA (Resource Sharing Alliance) regarding the RSA Independence Project, which is a conversion from a Not-for-profit organization to an Illinois Intergovernmental Instrumentality. The purpose will be to transfer operational and staffing decisions to the RSA Board of Directors. By July 1, 2024, the library must sign a new intergovernmental agreement with RSA to remain a member and continue to use Workflows. This will not affect our membership with RAILS.

There being nothing left to discuss, Clairice motioned to adjourn the meeting and Angela seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.