

MORTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
July 14, 2021

The Morton Public Library District Board meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Director Williams and board members Turner, Keach, Gryl, Thompson, Riesberg and Ropp were present. Tracy Hilliard and Scott Mousty attended to observe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Daniel was not available to deliver a presentation about "Groove in the Garden", but Director Williams presented on her behalf. The concert series began in 2016 as a way to expand the use of Hannah's Reading Garden. The library hosts concerts at 6:30 on Friday evenings in July, and local food trucks are on site by 6:00 pm for patrons to purchase dinner or snacks. The series kicks off with a local talent showcase as the first concert of the summer, and continues through the month with a variety of musical performances. The concerts have grown in popularity, with a range of attendance from 80 to 200 people at each show.

Tom Stagg from the RAILS Board was present to announce a RAILS Round Table event on August 11 at 12:00 pm for library board members. The topic, Succession Planning will be presented by Amanda Standerfer and board members can sign up for this Zoom event through their RAILS account. RAILS is also planning a "Trustee University" program in the future.

MINUTES

The minutes from the June 9, 2021 board meeting were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gryl delivered the Treasurer's Report. A CD held at MCB will come due in August and will be left at MCB. Year-end revenue and expenses are on track with budget, with a positive end of year report. **Keach moved and Thompson seconded that the July bills be paid. A roll call vote was held. The motion was carried unanimously.**

Invoices Paid	\$36,630.45	Payroll-Director	\$ 6,906.89
Ameren Illinois	733.60	Staff	<u>29,975.61</u>
I3 Broadband	387.88	Payroll Total:	\$36,882.50
Morton Utilities	206.96	Employer IMRF:	\$ 3,843.89
United Healthcare	3,663.97	Employer FICA:	\$ 2,821.52
IT360, Inc.	<u>1,875.00</u>		
Total Paid:	\$43,497.86		

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Williams provided an update on the library's long-range planning. Williams has been in communication with Dr. Buchko at the Bradley University School of Business, which is considering conducting a student-led pre-strategic planning survey on behalf of the library. The survey will provide needed data as the library crafts a new strategic plan, at a fraction of the cost of outsourcing data collection. In addition, it will create a partnership between the library and the university.

Director Williams has been contacted by a group of people interested in developing a heritage center that would highlight Morton's legacy including its pioneer settlers, agricultural history and various industries. Early discussions have contemplated a public/private partnership that would

include the library. While still in very early stages, this idea will likely become a part of the library's upcoming strategic plan.

Director Williams met with Dan and Lynne Walters regarding Hannah's Reading Garden. The Walters have established a fund for the maintenance, upkeep, development and expansion of the garden space. In the near future, additional cement will be poured to better access to the library entrance from the garden, the center stage stone will be raised and re-caulked and the back of the memorial stone, which faces the back door entrance to the library, will be engraved. Future plans for Hannah's Reading Garden will likely be included in the library's strategic plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Gryl moved and Riesberg seconded to approve Morton Public Library District Ordinance No. 21-2 as to the regular Board of Trustees meeting dates. The motion carried unanimously.

Williams presented a proposal to provide employee health care through Library Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination, beginning in January 2022. While there is a slight increase in cost, it is still within the budgeted amount, as well as providing much better coverage at a fixed rate. **Gryl moved and Thompson seconded to approve a Resolution Providing for the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the LIMRiCC for 2022 Health Care Coverage. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried unanimously.**

Riesberg moved and Gryl seconded to approve the purchase of six lounge chairs. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed proposals to repair the current digital sign or to replace the sign. The sign is ten years old, has reached the end of the expected lifespan, and has already had numerous panels replaced. Current technology provides much greater resolution, full color, and web-based programming software which will allow more nimble updates. **Keach moved and Ropp seconded to approve the purchase of a new digital sign. A roll call vote was held. The motion carried unanimously.**

CLOSED SESSION: In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2c, the Board of Trustees adjourned to Closed Session at 5:20 pm for the purpose of the selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office. The Board resumed open session at 5:44 pm.

Keach moved and Thompson seconded to appoint a three-person committee of Williams, Ropp and Gryl, with Keach as an alternate, to interview and recommend a candidate for the Board vacancy. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather W. Thompson, Secretary

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.