

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
October 19, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Sioux City Public Library was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, in the Conference Room of The Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Halaas, Charles McKenny, Richard A. Moon, Todd Stanley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janet Plathe, Rebecca Kempers

STAFF PRESENT: Betsy J. Thompson, Angela M. Beeck, Adrienne L. Jansen

VISITORS: Dave Bishop

1. President Richard A. Moon called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
2. Roll call was taken.  
Stanley was welcomed to his first Board of Trustees meeting.
3. The Agenda was approved.
4. Approve the Minutes – September 21, 2016 [Action Item]  
Halaas moved approval of the minutes. McKenny seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Director's Report  
Thompson shared photos from the Library booth at ArtSplash. The Library received the official certificate from the State of Iowa Library for state accreditation until 2020. The Library was named to receive memorials from Paul Butler who was a longtime patron of the Library. Thompson reviewed the quarterly statistics and checkouts are down slightly when compared to the same period last year. Moon asked if this is perhaps due to construction on Morningside Avenue. Thompson thought possibly but, down only 1.5% is almost a stabilizing indicator—the world is figuring out where it wants printed services and where it wants electronic services. Library program attendance is up. Stanley stated he is surprised by how many new library cards are issued each month. Halaas asked for explanation about a recent news story concerning the South Sioux City Library. Thompson stated she did not have all the facts but it was related to a change in Dakota County funding. Moon asked if the coil replacement was complete at the Morningside Branch. The coil replacement is completed. Thompson explained that Facebook comments attached to her report are referring to the *Sioux City Journal* article. Moon stated that *Sioux City Journal* article about the Morningside Condition Assessment was only a small part of the conversation from the joint meeting with City Council. Halaas found it interesting that we used the word branch, main and destination and they ran with those words. Thompson commented on the difficulty of planning and envisioning during public meetings.

6. Financial Reports

A. Expenditures: Approve Claims [Action Item]

Halaas moved approval of claims as submitted. McKenny seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

B. 2016-2017 Monthly Budget Summary

C. Restricted Funds Quarterly Summary Report

Thompson explained that these are non-tax dollars donated or given to be used specifically for the Library. A complete list of funds and reasons why private funds were given over the years was included with the report.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Morningside Branch Library Facility Condition Assessment

This assessment was previously discussed at the joint meeting of City Council and the Library Board of Trustees. Thompson asked for trustees input, after hearing these discussions, on how we would like to move forward. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) request was submitted to City Finance for \$1.2 million of critical improvements in FY2018 and the non-critical but recommended items the following year. Is that the preferred next step? Halaas asked when the CIP would go to City Council. Thompson said they begin public hearings the middle of January and go through the first week of February. Halaas is inclined to be supportive of the CIP request. He feels that any change to service delivery model will be a slow process and should have lots of input from community discussion. Dave Bishop is concerned about the downtown Library, he uses the downtown Library a lot and worked downtown. He is happy to hear it would be a thoughtful process before the Library would make changes. Bishop stated that he understands that books are more a generational thing. Moon stated that we are attempting to think outside the box. Halaas understands that concerns are more neighborhood driven, people are concerned about the vitality of downtown. Stanley stated that he feels the heating and air conditioning upgrades are critical. Thompson said that Council talked about phasing but the architect said that is more costly and she thinks a single service interruption would be best. Discussion concluded that we will proceed with seeking funds for what has been identified as critical at the Morningside Branch.

8. New Business

A. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget Planning

The 2017-2018 budget was submitted to City Finance. The Finance Department continues to finalize the personnel lines. Thompson's philosophy was to keep the budget steady. The materials budget remains the same dollar amount, moving some from printed materials to electronic resources. Before personnel changes, the operating budget actually decreased about \$3000. We will wait to hear what the City Manager and City Finance recommend as they put together a budget for the entire City.

B. Early Literacy Initiatives

Jansen, Library Youth Services Manager, discussed an early literacy initiative, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Jansen stated that in the Sioux City Public School system over 60% of elementary students are in the free and reduced lunch program. Statistics show that children in a poverty situation have a 3 million word deficit by age 3. Jansen shared a promotional brochure with a tear off bookmark that will encourage parents and care-givers to read to young children to develop the pre-literacy skills needed to learn to read. Moon asked when will it kick off and how long will it go. Jansen stated we are planning a January launch, will go as long as there is interest.

9. Trustee Concerns

Halaas shared a quote from a card he received. The cover said, "If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need." *Cicero*

McKenny shared about a recent trip he took to Springfield Missouri and he visited one of the library locations. He stated that the children's area had their own entrance. The friends of the library had their own book sale store attached and a Starbucks was also in the Library. The building was themed towards transportation since it was on Route 66.

Halaas agreed to be Acting Secretary in Plathe's absence.

10. Next Meetings:

Wednesday November 16, 2016, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday December 21, 2016, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday January 18, 2017, 3:30 p.m.

11. Moon adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

David Halaas, Acting Secretary

Angela M. Beeck, Assistant Secretary