

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1050 CURTISS STREET
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
APRIL 24, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

BOARD TRUSTEES:

Swapna Gigani	President
Dave Humphreys	Trustee
Barnali Khuntia	Trustee
Marti Sladek	Trustee

GUESTS:

Julie Milavec	Library Director
Jen Ryjewski	Assistant Library Director
Katelyn Vabalaitis	Business Office Manager
Ed Bromiel	Media Lab Coordinator

ABSENT:

Carissa Dougherty	Trustee
-------------------	---------

Minutes prepared by Michael Vargas of Minutes Solutions from a video recording.

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and the Trustees having been given adequate and proper notice of the meeting, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Swapna Gigani led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance and read aloud the Downers Grove Public Library Land Acknowledgement.

3. ROLL CALL

The Board proceeded with a roll call of attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Board of Library Trustees meeting held on March 20, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5.1 March 2024 Financial Report

On a motion made duly made, it was resolved to accept the financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2024, as well as the invoices for April 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

Julie Milavec noted that the revenues are at .8%, as expected, due to the property tax collection cycle, which accounts for 96% of the entire revenue. Expenditures are at 21.1%. The Board asked for a cost estimate next month on the FOIAs.

5.2 April 2024 Invoices

Julie Milavec noted various security upgrades including adding alarm sensors to the doors at Forest Ave and Curtiss Street as well as to the staff doors and a keypad alarm system.

6. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Swapna Gigani stated that the Board denounced and condemned the misogynistic comments directed towards a village council member. She added that those actions reflected broader issues of sexism and discrimination affecting the country. Libraries must remain inclusive spaces that cater to the diverse needs and perspectives of all community members. Attempts to impose regressive ideologies upon institutions undermine their fundamental purpose and threaten principles of equality and intellectual freedom.

Marti Sladek thanked the library staff and foundation for support during her brother's passing. In particular, she thanked Amanda ReCupido and Brooks Ruyle for allowing her to put up the memorial fund on the Downers Grove Public Library Foundation's page in support of the social work program.

Dave Humphreys commented that the Discoveries newsletter of the library went out this week and encouraged everyone to read it.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Swapna Gigani outlined the rules for public comment before opening the floor for comments.

Mark, a resident of Downers Grove, thanked the staff of the library for their hard work as well as the Board. He spoke against those individuals who would threaten the library Board and commented that the library remains a favorite pastime for him and his family.

Marge Mark, a resident of Downers Grove, thanked the Board and library staff for their hard work. She commented that she was grateful to live and raise a family in Downers Grove and for the library's place in the community.

Norm Sidler, a Downers Grove resident, raised concerns over the amounts being spent and clarified the levy and how it has grown over the last 10 years. He also commented that it was not right to go after individuals and stated that a police report had been filed in regards to a threat against Bill Nienburg.

Ilene Briner, a Downers Grove resident, commented that the rules and standards of the library should be equally applied to all and spoke out against the censure and removal of Bill Nienburg. She criticized Marti Sladek for doing the same thing she accused others of doing, name calling.

Katie Johnson, a resident of Downers Grove, commented on her support for the library and its staff and added that the library takes care of the whole community.

Steve Wilmus, a Downers Grove resident, asked why books by Thomas Sowell were not featured in areas of the website where they would naturally be featured. He asked if the categories on the website contained diversity of thought or only certain world views.

Noel Manley, a resident of Downers Grove, remarked on comments made at the last meeting calling him an interloper and the Board's ensuing silence. He commented that he submitted a FOIA request for the names of all persons over 18 who held a library card. He received a list of names and commented that the release of the information was unbelievable. He made similar FOIA requests to other neighboring libraries and they all denied the request.

Ed Briner, a Downers Grove resident, commented that the library was unsafe for the children of Downers Grove. He recounted an incident of a drunk person on the premises that was initially denied by Julie Milavec who at the same time also emailed him the incident report. He added that Julie Milavec could later not find the incident report in the database and asked for a copy which he provided. According to Ed Briner, she has yet to offer an apology.

On a motion duly made, it was resolved to take a five-minute recess. Motion carried.

Amanda ReCupido, President, Downers Grove Public Library Foundation, commented that they just wrapped the National Library Week celebration. They maintained the level of support from last year and half of the week included new partners. She thanked the library and community for their service.

Laura Kamedulski, a Downers Grove resident, commented on her support for the library and all of its services. She spoke out against the Awake Illinois group and advocated for inclusivity.

Werner Kiuntke, a Downers Grove resident, commented that the community needed to make more of a public statement on what the village stood for, to work on increasing recognition of diversity in the village, to make the village more accepting of persons that are nonwhite and non-European, to increase nonwhite and women participation in institutions, and to create a community-wide response condemning the attacks on public organizations.

Werner Kiuntke further commented that the library board should work with the village council to appoint a new member of the board to represent the values of the library in the community. He further commented that the community participates in a needs assessment for the services required by vulnerable populations and a call for the expansion of existing services and the creation of new ones.

Gloria Walsh-Rock, a Downers Grove resident, commented on her support for the library and its staff and looked forward to the summer library programs.

A Downers Grove resident commented that the community needed to hold itself to a higher standard. He spoke against the vote to censor and remove Bill Neinberg at the last meeting while he was not there to defend himself.

8. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Swapna Gigani commented that due to time constraints, the Board could not discuss the library director's report. However, the report can be found on page 21 of the packet for review.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Swapna Gigani stated that there was no new business to report.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Swapna Gigani stated that there was no unfinished business to report.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Swapna Gigani stated that there were no items that needed to be included in an executive session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.