



## McHenry Public Library District

809 Front Street

McHenry, Illinois 60050

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www.mchenrylibrary.org

### MINUTES McHenry Public Library District Board of Library Trustees Regular Meeting

**Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Location: Meeting Rooms #135 & #136**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Bud Alexander, Vice President**

Vice President Alexander called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL – Monica Leccese, Secretary**

Roll was called.

**Members Present:** Bud Alexander, Monica Leccese, Michele Madsen, Thomas Sutliff, Nikki Wallace, Terry Weingart

**Members Absent:** Charles Reilly

**Also Present:** Lesley Jakacki, Executive Director  
Jennifer May, HR Generalist  
Stephanie Nowalk, Administrative Assistant  
Zach Terrill, Adult Services Manager

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Monica Leccese, Secretary**

**A.** Approval of Minutes of the November 21, 2023, Levy Hearing

**B.** Approval of Minutes of the November 21, 2023, Regular Meeting

Secretary Leccese stated that she reviewed the minutes of the November 21, 2023, Levy Hearing and the minutes of the November 21, 2023, Regular meeting and found no changes necessary.

Sutliff moved, and Madsen seconded the motion to approve the Secretary's report.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Alexander, Leccese, Madsen, Sutliff, Wallace, Weingart

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Reilly  
**Motion Passed**

**VII. TREASURER'S REPORT –Terry Weingart, Treasurer**

- A.** Approval of Monthly Financial Statements, Interim Check Report and Bill Reports For November/ December 2023, Additional Bills (distributed at meeting), Reimbursement Report, and Credit Card Reports.

Treasurer Weingart stated that she reviewed the financial statements and noted that MPLD's total actual revenue is below budget at \$3,740,887.00, actual expenditures were \$1,122,137.00, and capital expenditures were \$46,241.00, leaving a total surplus of \$2,572,509.00. She also positively noted the current fiscal year's budget deficit of \$163,019.00.

Treasurer Weingart additionally stated that revenue is slightly lower than budget due to developer fees, fines/misc. fees, and general/reserve gifts. She asked Director Jakacki if MPLD can expect additional revenue from these sources. Director Jakacki explained that developer fees are distributed to MPLD as payments are received from developers, not on a set schedule. She also explained the process for developing the budget for gifts is simply an average of amounts received in prior years. Director Jakacki asked for the opportunity to review the budgeted fines/misc. fee amounts listed in the board packet because they do not seem to be accurate.

Treasurer Weingart noted that expenditures are just below budget in nearly every category and asked if MPLD was up to speed in terms of hiring employees. Director Jakacki replied no and that the unfilled positions are contributing to the lower expenditure figure.

Director Jakacki called the Board's attention to the expenditure fund details on p.18 and explained that the negative totals shown reflect the new method of recording prepaid expenditures. She also mentioned that the final tax distribution was received in early December and will be reflected in next month's financial statements.

Leccese moved, Sutliff seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report including Monthly Financial Statements, Interim Check Report and Bill Reports for November/ December 2023, Additional Bills (distributed at meeting), Reimbursement Report, and Credit Card Reports.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Alexander, Leccese, Madsen, Sutliff, Wallace, Weingart

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Reilly

**Motion Passed**

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A.** Letter of appreciation from Steffanie Baseley  
Youth Services Librarian, Steffanie Baseley, was a participant in MPLD's tuition reimbursement program. She successfully graduated this month and submitted the letter to thank the Board for their support by allowing her to participate in the program.

- B.** Illinois Library Associations Legislative Priorities

Director Jakacki attended the Illinois Library Association Legislative Meet-up in Rochelle, IL. The event brought together local, State, and Federal representatives to discuss lobbying efforts for libraries and other support opportunities for the upcoming year. Top issues discussed were how to make e-book licensing more competitive, equal access to materials, and addressing various administrative inconsistencies impacting libraries compared to other governmental entities.

## **IX. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

### **A. Librarian's Report**

Director Jakacki shared the following updates from the Librarian's Report:

- Trustee Wallace and Director Jakacki attended the City of McHenry 2050 Strategic Planning meetings. Developers presented mockups of various sites with potential for development or redevelopment to the public for feedback. The drawings were revised to reflect community suggestions for the subsequent meetings. Photos from the final meeting were shared with the Board and the implications for MPLD's future plans were discussed.
- MPLD partnered with Home of the Sparrow this season to place a collection tree in the front vestibule. Patrons can choose a card to purchase a holiday gift for someone in need.
- MPLD decorated a tree for the McHenry Chamber of Commerce Festival of Trees event. The public was able to vote for their favorite tree by leaving non-perishable donations beneath. All donated items were then collected for Veterans Path to Hope.
- In November, MPLD hosted a preschool fair. Twelve different centers offered information to the 75 community members in attendance.
- A new book, *A Day So Gray*, was added to the StoryWalk. The author commented on MPLD's Facebook announcement to say she was "happy to see her book out in the wild."
- Director Jakacki shared a message received from a patron regarding some outdated features on MPLD's website. The SSL certificate has since been applied by the web developer while other updates, including accessibility items, are slated to be addressed in the upcoming year.
- A number of positive patron comment cards were also shared with the Board.

### **B. Project Updates**

Director Jakacki shared the following project update:

- The Fire Panel Replacement project was completed on schedule and on budget. The final step is to coordinate the final inspection with the Fire Department.

### **C. Serving Our Public 4.0- Chapters 9-13**

Director Jakacki asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns about the review of the final chapters from the IL Library Core Standards.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Library Investments**

As follow-up to last month's discussion regarding the investment with Principal/Computershare. Director Jakacki communicated to the Board that the investment should be sold based on the recommendation of the auditors, MPLD's bylaws, and the IL Statute for Investments for Libraries. She additionally shared options for reallocating those funds in the future.

Weingart moved, and Sutliff seconded the motion to approve the selling of stocks and closing the account from Principal/Computershare after the 2023 Quarter four dividends are applied.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Alexander, Leccese, Madsen, Sutliff, Wallace, Weingart

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Reilly

**Motion Passed**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Policies**

**1. Background and Reference Checks- New**

Approval was sought to formalize a current hiring practice into policy.

**2. Personal Paid Leave- Updated**

Approval was sought to update MPLD's existing personal leave policy to comply with the newly passed law entitled IL Paid Leave for All Workers Act effective 1/1/24.

Madsen moved, Leccese seconded the motion to approve the new Background and Reference Check policy and the updated Personal Paid Leave policy

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Alexander, Leccese, Madsen, Sutliff, Wallace, Weingart

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Reilly

**Motion Passed**

**3. New or updated policy in regards to Public Act 103-0100**

Director Jakacki explained that according to Public Act 103-0100, in order to satisfy the requirements to receive state funding (Per Capita Grant), MPLD needs to have an anti-censorship policy or statement. Director Jakacki proposed to the Board the two options available: adopt the ALA's Library Bill of Rights or develop a written statement prohibiting the practice of banning books or other materials within the library or library system.

The Board discussed the options with Director Jakacki and debated. Vice President Alexander voiced strong opposition to formalizing the adoption of the ALA's Library Bill of Rights and preferred MPLD craft their own statement in order to maintain definitive autonomy from the ALA; Trustee Wallace concurred.

Secretary Leccese stated if Board members strongly object to the formal adoption the ALA's Library Bill of Rights, she would like to revisit all of the ALA language within the MPLD policy manual that the Board adopted in 2014.

Madsen moved, Sutliff seconded motion to approve the addition of "adopt" to MPLD's existing public policies in reference to the ALA Library Bill of Rights.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Leccese, Madsen, Weingart  
Nays: Alexander, Sutliff, Wallace  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Reilly  
**Motion Failed**

Vice President Alexander moved to adopt the following policy statement, "In connection with censorship, the library shall protect intellectual freedom of the library user and shall prevent censorship of its library materials, ensuring that items are not withdrawn from the library's collection merely because individuals or groups object to the material."

The Board discussed what wording would most appropriately represent MPLD's position. Director Jakacki offered to develop a statement more closely aligned with the Board's views for consideration at the next meeting.

Vice President Alexander withdrew his motion, there was no second. Further discussion was tabled until the January 2024 meeting.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board chose not to enter executive session.

**XIII. ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session was held.

**XIV. ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

Director Jakacki shared MPLD's advertisement from the McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Business & Community Guide that featured a photo from this year's Halloween Bash.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Sutliff moved, Madsen seconded motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Alexander, Leccese, Madsen, Sutliff, Wallace, Weingart  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Reilly  
**Motion Passed**

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 11th day of January 2024

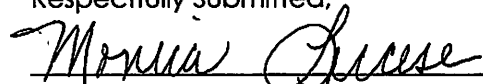
AYES: 5 - Alexander, Leccese, Reilly, Sutliff, Weingart

NAYES: Ø

ABSTAIN: Ø

ABSENT: 2 - Madsen, Wallace

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Leccese". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Monica Leccese, Secretary**

**McHenry Library District Board of Trustees**