

**DIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
March 9, 2023
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting with Zoom**

Due to the increasing concern surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was open to the public through the Zoom Conferencing platform.

Call to Order Trustee Meeting Started at 7:04 PM.

This was a virtual meeting with adequate and accessible access through Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call – In-person participants: Ron O’Connor, Chair; Ann Meitzen, trustee; Rita Araujo, trustee; Jocelyn Tavares, library director

With a virtual meeting, a roll call vote should be taken, so that it is absolutely clear what the outcome of the vote is. The meeting must be completely audible. The meeting is recorded.

Old Business

- Dighton Public Library Board of Trustees Bylaws - Review/Discuss/Act: Point of clarification before the discussion: Ron explained that this meeting was actually a regular meeting of the Trustees, not a special meeting as indicated on the agenda.

Ron started by saying there were a couple of amendments to the bylaws. One was Article 6, number 1, regarding when trustee meetings are held. The proposal was to change the meeting time to 6:00 and change meeting location to “on town premises.”

Ann moved to change Article 6, number 1, to “Regular meetings shall be held on town premises on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6:00 PM.” Rita seconded.

Ann Meitzen: Aye

Rita Araujo: Aye

Ron O’Connor: Aye

Motion passes.

Ron reviewed the process for amending the bylaws. This change does not take effect until the next regular meeting. Ann mentioned she thought the board added a clause about regular meetings can be rescheduled. Jocelyn asked about meeting cancellations. Ron thought meetings could be postponed. Ron thought the article should keep the defined regular meeting. He didn’t think we needed additional language to postpone in the event of circumstances beyond our control.

The other change was regarding the election of officers. The town guidance has changed on this, for organization of the board to take place at the meeting following the election. This is Article 5, number 5.

Rita moved to change Article 5, number 5 so it reads that election of officers takes place at the regular meeting following the town election. Ann seconded.

Ann Meitzen: Aye
Rita Araujo: Aye
Ron O'Connor: Aye
Motion passes.

Ron brought up Article 3, Number 5. and pointed out conflicting language. This is just a technical issue that should make language consistent. Replace all instances of the word “president” with “Chairperson.”

Ann moved to replace the word “president” with the word “chairperson” in the Dighton Public Library’s Board of Trustees bylaws, as it occurs. Rita seconded.

Rita Araujo: Aye
Ann Meitzen: Aye
Ron O'Connor: Aye
Motion passes.

These three amendments will be moved on for enactment for the next regular meeting in April.

- Letter to Town Residents - Review/Act: Jocelyn started creating a webpage for the letter with links and attachments in the letter. Jocelyn attended a meeting with the statewide PR Committee. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners created several statements on Intellectual Freedom. Jocelyn intends to make a webpage, send it in the newsletter and disseminate on social media. Ron thought the timing of the dissemination would be next week. Jocelyn will send it to the board for review before it is published. Jocelyn thought because we were discussing this in open session we could continue working on this as a board after the meeting.

Ann moved to go forward with the letter and supporting documents to publish to the website and send to the library distribution list. Rita seconded.

Discussion followed the motion. Rita wanted it to go out. Jocelyn highlighted the posted meeting for the Communication and Education committee for Monday at 1 if there are concerns. Ron is unable to make the 1:00 meeting, but he is able to be there at CPC, if there is a reason to discuss further changes. There are complications with scheduling this meeting within the Open Meeting Law time frame. Ron thought we should withdraw the motion. Ann withdrew the motion.

Set Zoom meeting for Wednesday, March at 9:00.

New Business

- Contract of Employment - Library Director, Jocelyn Tavares - Review/Discuss/Act

Ron attended teh Board of Selectmen meeting last evening where the Library Director contract was approved. The board received a copy of the contract for signature.

Ann moved that the Board accept the Library Director contract for Jocelyn Tavares. Rita seconded. Ron made a friendly amendment to add the word approve to the motion. Ron encouraged the board to view the Selectmen’s meeting.

Rita Araujo: Aye
Ann Meitzen: Aye
Ron O'Connor: Aye
Motion passes.

- Saturday Library Operations: Jocelyn is becoming more concerned with staffing an empty building on Saturdays. Another staff member told Jocelyn they fell in the building while alone. Selectman Pacheco always thought there should be multiple staff members in each location. Staff are also concerned about closing any locations that hurt library services. Part time staff is working every Saturday, and the rest of the staff rotate. Rita asked which location has the most traffic. The modular appears at this point. Discussed the logistics of staffing on Saturdays. We need to communicate the change to library users if we proceed.

Rita moved to have two staff members on Saturdays in the modular with the Town Hall be closed. Ann added a point of discussion. In Jocelyn's review of the situation, if the Town Hall is getting more business, we may revisit the scheduling. Two staff members at the same location. Jocelyn wanted to discuss this with staff.

Ann moved to have two staff members at one location, with the location to be determined by the Director. Rita seconded. There is no effective date on this.

Rita Araujo: Aye
Ann Meitzen: Aye
Ron O'Connor: Aye
Motion passes.

- Massachusetts Cultural Council Recovery Grant Ceremony is tomorrow at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod. Jocelyn will attend. Board is invited, but Jocelyn can represent the trustees. This is the approximately \$27,000 award received.

Public Comment

Ann moved to adjourn. Rita seconded.

Ann Meitzen: Aye
Rita Araujo: Aye
Ron O'Connor: Aye
Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Documents Referenced:

Trustee Bylaws
FY24 Budget
7:50