

Trustee Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024

The April 2024 meeting of the Leominster Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 8, 2024, at the historical conference room of the library.

In attendance were Mark Bodanza, Susan Chalifoux Zephir, Lawrence NFOR, and Susan Shelton. Trustees Jim Despo and Joanne D'Onfro were absent. Present at the meeting as well were the Library Director Alexander Lent, Nicole Butler, the Assistant Director, David Laplante, Interim Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Nicole Laplante, City Treasurer/Collector and Rich Rogers, Managing Partner from Abbey Capital LLC.

Chair Bodanza called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

OPEN FORUM

No one was available to address the Board in the open forum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 2024 meeting had an edit corrected – Comptroller was replaced with Treasurer/Collector and the minutes were approved as corrected (SCZ/SS).

TRUST FUND PRESENTATION

Rich Rogers presented the investment we have with Abbey Capital and there were quite a number of questions that got satisfactory responses. It was discussed that we seek to stay within the legal list and also it was reiterated that we still have high cash and so just to keep an eye on what needs to be done than just hold. The board requested that Rich provides us with our performance summary, year to year since we moved the funds so we can see growth/decline over period. It was also noted that the fees charged by Abbey Capital, at 29 basis points was not outside average rate. We appreciated the presence and insight shared by the City Treasurer/Collector team and Rich, our investment manager at Abbey Capital.

LIBRARY REPORT

The Library Director gave some updates as per the report and emphasis on page six with detailed discussion on sick leave – how it was written and how contributions could be made as well as new eligible members to join the sick leave bank. It was the board’s position that the Director look further into this and see how the cap can be lifted as well as those who retired could be removed and new members added so they could benefit from this opportunity.

Most of the other items in the report were agenda items.

Report was accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Patron Issues and Feedback: The Director gave updates following the eclipse that was just experienced earlier that day and more so on the excitement that the Library got the right glasses and patrons were very happy to have this experience.

FY2025 Budget: The Director did not have any additional update on the budget from City Hall as at time of meeting.

Cormier Center Plan: The City Carpenter has assured the Director that they can take down the ramp at no cost to the Library. The carpet, however, would still need to be done and so quotes are being received as included in the packet. The board accepted that based on quotes on pages 17 (full replacement) and 18 (partial replacement), partial replacement of the carpet should be carried out (SCZ/SS). It was also agreed that the mural in the center should be moved to another location and a smaller replica be kept in the center with directions on where to find the full size in the library – possibly third floor. Shelving quotes were also received and included on page 19 of the packet. It was also agreed that a total of up to \$4,200 be used in this fiscal year for this work.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan: The plan summary was included on page 33 with very positive feedback and involvement from our patron population and other stakeholders. General summary is that many would like the good programming and Sunday openings be kept as well as continue to increase community presence. It was also noted that a continuous assessment be made frequently. The plan as proposed was then approved by the board (SS/SCZ).

Weather Camera for LTV: A discussion around the installation of a camera at the roof corner of the library facing city hall and monument square ended with an approval of the request (SS/SCZ). Included in the approval was the clear concerns that separate networks and access to our network be studied so bandwidth is not an issue, nor security.

With no additional information nor announcements, the meeting adjourned at 6:17PM (SCZ/SS).

Lawrence NFOR,
Board Secretary.