

MINUTES

PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

20 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Building and Grounds Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Committee Chair: Joseph Steinfels, Josh Kiem, Danielle Powers, Lauren Rapisand, Theresa Renaldi, Gregg Rusk, David Somheil
Trustees Absent: Alexandra Hanba, Deepika Thiagarjan
Others Present: Joanna Bertucci, Library Director; Angela Berger, Alyson Doubek, Staci Greenwald, John Priala, Library Staff
Alderman Charlie Melidosian

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Chairman Steinfels called the meeting to order at 7:59 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Steinfels made a

MOTION: to approve the minutes of August 9, 2022

Trustee Rapisand seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Kiem, Powers, Rapisand, Rusk, Steinfels,
Abstain: Renaldi, Somheil

Motion passed

LOW SENSORY SPACE PROPOSAL

Director Bertucci reviewed the memo on page 52 of the packet which provides a high level overview of the proposed project along with budget implications for the two possible courses of action; one ADA compliant washroom and one low sensory room vs. two ADA compliant washrooms. She and Ms. Greenwald then made a PowerPoint presentation that further detailed the specifics of the project along with cost considerations, strategic plan implications, an update on what other area libraries are doing with low sensory spaces, and data on the prevalence of autism and other neuro-divergent conditions. The presentation also included a mock-up of how the low sensory space could look in the space that is available.

Discussion ensued with regard to the use and naming of the space, the size of the space, the results of the experiment done to close one washroom on a trial basis to gather data on the impact of having only one washroom in the children's room and the cost differential between the two options being considered. Trustee Steinfels expressed concern with losing a toilet fixture given the expanding population of Park Ridge and the level of foot traffic in the department.

Trustee Renaldi asked if another experimental closure could take place prior to the Board meeting and Director Bertucci agreed that the Youth Services staff would do that. Trustee Rusk stated his opinion that this proposed use of space is an excellent way to demonstrate the strategic plan goal of innovation. Trustee Kiem thanked staff for the excellent presentation and the data on the washroom closure experiment.

After conducting a straw poll to indicate the level of support existing for the project, it was the committee's consensus that this be placed on the agenda for the 9.20.22 Board meeting under New Business.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

Director Bertucci updated the committee on the status of each of the pending building projects as summarized in the memo on page 59 of the packet.

OTHER

None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.