

**INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board met electronically via Zoom and/or telephone on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:35 p.m., pursuant to notice given in accordance with the rules of the Board.

1. Call To Order

Judge Salinas called the meeting to order. Mr. Biederman acted as Secretary.

2. Roll Call

Members present electronically: Mr. Biederman, Mr. Bigsbee, Dr. Jett, Dr. Murtadha, Ms. Payne, Rev. Robinson and Judge Salinas.

3. Welcome and Overview of Program Development Area

Melissa Wooton, Area Resource Manager – Adult Services, and Sharon Bernhardt, Area Resource Manager-Children’s Services, alongside members of the Programming Department shared various updates from their area. The team discussed Adulting 101 classes for teens, a partnership with Mexican Consulate to establish a Plaza Comunitaria, programming for children under five years-old and the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

Both Judge Salinas and Dr. Murtadha expressed their gratitude for the work done by these staff members with regard to programming for the Library.

4. Public Comment and Communications

In view of the extreme emergency facing our city, and in keeping with the Executive Order issued by the Governor, the public was not invited to physically attend the meeting but had the ability to view/listen and/or submit a question/comment to the Regular Meeting via a live stream YouTube link.

Michael Torres, Public Services Associate II and President of the Library’s Union, AFSCME, addressed Board. He made the following inquiry:

How are public comments submitted before library board meetings online going to be handled? Last month the two comments were inserted into the meeting minutes and not read during the public comment section. I had a conversation with the CEO and there wasn't a clear resolution. I believe if a public comment is submitted it should be read by the board Secretary and actually be part of the meeting and entered in the minutes. My other question about public comment is currently mentioned on the website as such:

I think the public should know if they submit a comment how it's going to be handled, will be read or will it be part of next month's minutes.

President Salinas responded that he had no objection to the reading of patron letters at the Board Meetings as long as they weren't over five minutes in length and they didn't contain any profanity or inappropriate language.

Russell Brown, attorney for the Library Board, confirmed that there were no restrictions to the reading of letters submitted by patrons. He reminded everyone about the five minute time limit. The transcript of those letters will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

At this time, the recent comments received from patrons via the Library's website were read into the record as follows:

Comment Submitted By: Luke Parker

Keep the libraries closed.

With the new even more infectious strains of corona around, reopening the libraries is not only reckless, but incredibly dangerous. The fact that considering reopening the libraries this soon with a new more infectious strain is one of the worst ideas to be brought up. I love the library and but if you reopen before it is truly deemed safe simply because "people want to browse" you might as well be saying "the staff isn't important and is disposable."

Keep the libraries closed.

Comment Submitted By: Lisa Riolo

Please do not reopen the library to visitors. The library has been a leader in protecting the public. Please don't cave into pressure to ignore public health guidelines.

5. Approval Of Minutes: Executive Session, Regular and Special Meetings

a. Regular Meeting, January 25, 2021

The minutes from the Regular Meeting held January 25, 2021 had been distributed to the Board.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Mr. Bigsbee, seconded by Ms. Payne, and the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye
 Mr. Bigsbee – Aye
 Dr. Jett – Aye
 Dr. Murtadha – Aye

Ms. Payne – Aye
 Rev. Robinson – Aye
 Judge Salinas – Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. Finance Committee (Patricia A. Payne, Chair; Raymond Biederman, Curtis Bigsbee)

a. Report of the Treasurer – January 2021

Ije Dike-Young, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the Report of the Treasurer that had been distributed to the Board. She mentioned that there was nothing out of the ordinary in the Report this month.

She reviewed the two new items had been added to the Report. The first was the addition of various year-to-date charts on revenue. The second was information on the Gift and Grant Fund which tracks spending on projects and programs.

Ms. Dike-Young commented that she is always open to improving the Report. If any Board member has a suggestion, just let her know.

Ms. Payne made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Murtadha, that the Report of the Treasurer be filed for audit.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved for filing for audit on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye
 Mr. Bigsbee – Aye
 Dr. Jett – Aye
 Dr. Murtadha – Aye

Ms. Payne – Aye
 Rev. Robinson – Aye
 Judge Salinas – Aye

b. Briefing Report – 2020 Investment Report

A copy of the 2020 Investment Report was provided to the Board for their review and information.

Ms. Dike-Young advised that the Library's fiscal body designated the Marion County Board of Finance to serve as the Library's Local Board of Finance. The function of the Board of Finance is to review the investments and investment policies of the members. She noted that the Report had been presented to the Board of Finance at a meeting on January 29, 2021.

7. Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee (Curtis W. Bigsbee, Chair; Patricia A. Payne, Rev. T. D. Robinson)

Mr. Bigsbee announced that the Committee did not have a report this month.

8. Facilities Committee (Dr. Terri Jett, Chair; Curtis Bigsbee, Dr. Khaula Murtadha)

a. Glendale Branch Replacement Project

Sharon Smith, Facilities Director, reminded the Board that krM Architecture+ leads the design for the Project and Powers and Sons is providing the construction management services.

At this time, Kevin Montgomery from krM and Judy Gray, Branch Manager at Glendale, reviewed various aspects of the Project. Drawings and pictures were displayed and there was discussion about the community meetings held with regard to the Project. There was also discussion on the steps used for community engagement on the Project.

It was noted that the budget for the Project is approximately \$10.8 million and completion is scheduled for December 2022.

At this time, President Salinas recessed the Regular Meeting and convened a Public Hearing.

- 1) Ms. Smith noted that the Public Hearing was being held to consider the disposal of the real estate located at 3325 Lowry Road, Indianapolis, IN.

Ms. Smith advised that this real estate was now classified as surplus property by the Library.

- 2) Judge Salinas asked if there was any comment from the audience.

There were no comments.

Dr. Jett made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Dr. Murtadha seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

The Public Hearing was closed and the Regular Meeting was reconvened.

b. Resolution 11 – 2021 (Authorization to Sell Real Estate Located at 3325 Lowry Road, Indianapolis, IN)

Ms. Smith advised that the Committee was recommending that the Library Board approve the sale of the referenced property to Little Scholars Childcare LLC for the sum of \$400,000.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 11 – 2021, the resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Bigsbee, seconded by Dr. Jett, to approve Resolution 11 – 2021 for the Authorization to Sell Real Estate Located at 3325 Lowry Road, Indianapolis, IN.

Resolution 11 – 2021 was approved on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye	Ms. Payne – Aye
Mr. Bigsbee – Aye	Rev. Robinson – Aye
Dr. Jett – Aye	Judge Salinas – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

9. Strategic Planning Committee (Dr. Terri Jett, Chair; Dr. Khaula Murtadha, Judge Jose D. Salinas)

a. Resolution 12 – 2021 (Approval of the Indianapolis Public Library 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan)

Garrett Mason, Strategic Planning and Assessment Officer, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Library’s 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan. He noted that what was before the Board tonight for approval was the core components of the Plan. The Plan focuses on the values of Racial Equity, Adaptability, Communication, Diversity and Inclusiveness. Additional items are being formulated and will be added to the final version of the Plan before it’s published.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 12 – 2021, the resolution was adopted on the motion of Dr. Jett, seconded by Ms. Payne, to approve Resolution 12 – 2021 for the Approval of the core components of the Indianapolis Public Library 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan.

Resolution 12 – 2021 was approved on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye	Ms. Payne – Aye
Mr. Bigsbee – Aye	Rev. Robinson – Aye
Dr. Jett – Aye	Judge Salinas – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

10. Library Foundation Update

February 2021 Library Foundation Update

Rev. Robinson began the Update by sharing the following story from a Foundation donor about a librarian that he was fond of during his childhood and was the reason he made a gift to Foundation in that librarian’s honor:

“She was an enormously kind person, and she had endless patience for a lonely little boy who haunted the children's section: trying to help out and man the circulation desk, bravely insisting on retrieving back issues from the ill-lit periodicals storage room all by himself, and so on. It must have been tremendously annoying, but she was so indulgent that I wouldn't realize this until I was long grown. I've always had great affection for libraries and found them to be places of solace--everywhere I've lived, however temporarily (even on other continents!), I've always rushed to get a library card--and the fond memories I have of Miss Sharon and other librarians I've known over the years are surely the root cause.”

News

The Foundation's Board of Directors passed the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan. The full Plan will be shared with the Library Board at a future meeting.

The Foundation is proud to support Meet the Artists, thanks to the generosity of Christel DeHaan Family Foundation and Friends of the Library. We applaud the African-American History Committee for successfully adapting this beloved program to a virtual format.

The signage for The Michael D. O'Brien Boardroom was installed this month. The Foundation appreciates the Library Board for approving the renaming of this space to honor Michael's legacy.

Donors

The Foundation thanks 144 donors who made gifts last month. The following are the top corporate and Foundation contributors.

BKD, LLP

Program Support

This month we are proud to provide funding for the following Library programs. All programs are system-wide unless otherwise noted.

Cultural

Fall Fest 2021/Slammin Rhymes Challenge XV
 Concert Series
 International Festivals and Celebrations
 IWC Natural Helpers Pop-Up Branches
 Center for Black Literature and Culture

Children's

Pocket Park Story Walk – INFO
 Growing Global Citizens – INFO
 Summer Reading Program

Collections/IT

General Digitization
 IndyPL Historic Document Digitization

Lifelong Learning

ISCR Lecture Series – CEN
 Business Automation with Code Black Indy – E38
 Fit Lit Book Discussion and Lecture – CEN
 Mental Health and Well-Being – E38
 Nonprofit Workshops – CEN
 Early Childhood Educators Workshops
 A Plethora of Computer Classes – GPK
 Lunch and Learn

Capital/Branch

Monument Circle Book Station to Central
 Author Engravings – CEN

General Library Support

LGBTQ+ Competency Training with IYG

11. Report Of The Chief Executive Officer**a. Confirming Resolutions:****1) Resolution Regarding Finances, Personnel and Travel (13 – 2021)**

Ms. Nytes mentioned that the resolution this month had no travel claims to be approved.

Ms. Payne made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Murtadha, to approve Resolution 13 – 2021, the Resolution Regarding Finances, Personnel and Travel.

Resolution 13 – 2021 was approved on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye	Ms. Payne – Aye
Mr. Bigsbee – Aye	Rev. Robinson – Aye
Dr. Jett – Aye	Judge Salinas – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

b. Update on the Name Engraving Project at Central Library

Tariq Robinson, Adult Program Specialist and Dr. Michael Twyman, Library Foundation Donor, provided the Update.

Mr. Robinson gave a presentation which provided some information on the proposed project.

At this time, Dr. Twyman addressed the Board. He shared that he has memories of Central Library that span decades regarding the lack of names of authors of color being engraved on the walls at Central. He decided to reach out to the Indianapolis

Public Library Foundation and the Library itself to share his desire that something needed to be done to remedy this situation. The goal is to make the building a welcoming environment for all patrons. Following discussions, it has been determined that ten names reflecting authors of color will be engraved in the main Reading Room at Central.

Additionally, 11 names of black individuals will be engraved outside of the Center for Black Literature and Culture at Central. It is anticipated that this project will be completed around October 4, 2021.

c. **Information about Lillian Hall, first Black Librarian at IndyPL and in the State of Indiana, for Possible Naming of a Space at Central Library**

Stephen Lane, Special Collections Librarian, gave a presentation on Lillian Childress Hall, Indiana's first Black Librarian. He noted that she had worked as an apprentice at the Evansville Public Library (now Evansville-Vanderburgh County Public Library) before she became a certified librarian after studying at Butler College (now Butler University). She worked at the Paul Laurence Dunbar Branch, the first IndyPL branch in an African American neighborhood, and became a leader in the community. In July 1927, Hall resigned her position at Dunbar to accept a new appointment at the newly built Crispus Attucks High School, where she worked until she retired.

Mr. Lane announced that it is being proposed that a space at Central Library be named in honor of Ms. Hall. More information about this project is anticipated in the near information.

d. **Indianapolis Public Library (IndyPL) Annual Inclusion Plan – January 2021**

Ms. Nytes pointed out that a copy of the Library's Annual Inclusion Plan – January 2021 was included in the packet. She briefly discussed some of the aspects of the Plan and encouraged the Board to take the time to review it more thoroughly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. None.

NEW BUSINESS

13. None.

AGENDA BUILDING

14. **Future Agenda Items** – This time was made available for discussion of items not on the Agenda which were of interest to Library Board members and the opportunity was given

to suggest items that should be included on future Library Board Meeting Agendas.

Items suggested for upcoming Board Agendas are as follows:

March 2021 - None

INFORMATION

15. Materials

There were no materials available to distribute to the Board

16. Board Meeting Schedule for 2021 (Notice and Place of Meeting) and Upcoming Events/Information

- a. **Board Meetings for 2021**– *Current calendar will be updated, as necessary, and additional information highlighted.*
- b. **Library Programs/Free Upcoming Events** – All Programs and Events are canceled until further notice.

17. Notice of Special Meetings

None.

18. Notice of Next Regular Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021, will be a virtual meeting via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Further details will be provided at a later date.

19. Other Business

20. Adjournment

The Secretary announced that there was no further business to come before the Board.

The Chairman then declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Raymond Biederman, Secretary to the Board

