

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

The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board met electronically via Zoom and/or telephone on Monday, March 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, Dr. Jett, Dr. Murtadha and Judge Salinas.

Members absent: Mr. Bigsbee, Ms. Payne and Rev. Robinson.

3. Introduction of Januarie York, IndyPL's New Poet Laureate

Nichelle Hayes, Special Collections Librarian, Center for Black Literature and Culture at Central Library, announced that Januarie York had joined IndyPL as the new Poet Laureate. Ms. Hayes advised that Ms. York is currently completing her Master of Arts degree and has a book of poetry coming out in the next few months.

Ms. York then addressed the Board. She noted that she was excited to be the first Poet Laureate at IndyPL. Ms. York also thanked the Board for having her at the meeting this evening. At this time, Ms. York read one of her poems about her grandmother entitled "Sweet Winona."

A round of applause occurred at this time.

Ms. York concluded her presentation by mentioning that she was looking forward to everything.

Judge Salinas commented that words matter in life.

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.

At this time, a recent comment received from a patron via the Library's website was read into the record as follows:

Comment Submitted By:

Jo McDermott

As a patron of the library for many years, I am truly disappointed with your decision to waive all late fees. Over two million dollars would have purchased many books. Yes, it may encourage people to come back to check out more books. What if they don't return those? All you are doing is encouraging people to be irresponsible. I took my children to the library since the day they were born and they take their children. We would never dream of keeping a library book.

A very poor decision!

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

a. Regular Meeting, February 22, 2021

The minutes from the Regular Meeting held February 22, 2021 had been distributed to the Board.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Mr. Biederman, seconded by Dr. Jett, and the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye
Dr. Jett – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye
Judge Salinas – Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

a. Report of the Treasurer – February 2021

Ije Dike-Young, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the Report of the Treasurer that had been distributed to the Board. She also noted that Expenditures are less this year. Repairs and maintenance are lower.

Judge Salinas asked Ms. Dike-Young if the Library was eligible for any of the Covid relief funds.

Ms. Dike-Young responded that there are grants available and the Library has been looking at several possibilities.

Dr. Murtadha made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Jett, 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
 Dr. Jett – Aye
 Dr. Murtadha – Aye
 Judge Salinas – Aye

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

Judge Salinas announced that the Committee did not have a report this month.

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

a. Fort Ben Branch Project

Sharon Smith, Facilities Director, reminded the Board that the Library has been working on this project since 2017.

Kevin Huse from Ratio Architects leads the design for the Project and Skillman Corporation and Davis & Associates is providing the construction management services.

At this time, Mr. Huse, along with Kimberly Brown-Harden, who has been selected as the Branch Manager for Fort Ben, 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 \$9.7 million and completion is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023.

b. Resolution 14 – 2021 (AMENDED Approval to Further Consider Responses to Request for Proposal for Lawn Care and Landscaping Services)

Ms. Smith advised that there have been a number of questions were raised about the bids received for the lawn care and landscaping services. It has been decided that the Committee needs additional information before a final decision is made.

Russell Brown, the Library's attorney, noted that the bids will be sent back to an Evaluation Committee to obtain more info. After that information is received, the Facilities Committee will be prepared to make a recommendation for a vendor which would then be ratified at the April Board Meeting.

Judge Salinas mentioned that he is in favor of this process as it has been outlined. Mr. Biederman agreed.

Dr. Murtadha thanked Dr. Jett for working to get this review going. Dr. Jett confirmed that she wanted the full Board to have all the information necessary to make a correct and informed decision on this matter.

After full discussion and careful consideration of AMENDED Resolution 14 – 2021, the resolution was adopted on the motion of Dr. Jett, seconded by Dr. Murtadha, to approve AMENDED Resolution 14 – 2021, Approval to Further Consider Responses to Request for Proposal for Lawn Care and Landscaping Services.

Resolution 14 – 2021 was approved on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye
 Dr. Jett – Aye
 Dr. Murtadha – Aye
 Judge Salinas – 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)

Dr. Jett noted that she was pleased to announce that the Library's 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan is now final and has been published. In that regard, the Strategic Planning Committee is now officially disbanded.

a. Presentation of 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan

Garrett Mason, Strategic Planning and Assessment Officer, then displayed and discussed the Library's 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan which had been included in the Board packet. He pointed out that information on the Library's Capital Projects and the Library Foundation had been incorporated into the Plan.

He also thanked Joe Backe, the Library's Communications Director, for his work on the Plan.

10. Library Foundation Update

March 2021 Library Foundation Update and Presentation of Strategic Plan

Roberta Jagers, President of the Indianapolis Public Library Foundation, shared information contained in the March 2021 Update.

Donors

The Foundation thanks 147 donors who made gifts last month. The following are the top corporate and Foundation contributors.

Christel DeHaan Family Foundation
 Indiana University School of Medicine
 Lacy Foundation
 Lilly Endowment Inc.
 Ritz Charles Inc.

Program Support

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

Early Literacy Specialist
 Ready to Read
 General Digitization Programs
 McFadden Lecture
 World Language Computer Classes

Ms. Jagers then displayed and discussed the Foundation's 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan that had been included in the packet for the Board's review. Ms. Jagers commented that the Foundation was excited to support the Library.

She thanked Rev. Robinson, Jacqueline Nytes, the Library's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Backe and Mr. Mason for their assistance in finalizing the Plan.

Hard copies of the Plan will be made available to everyone.

11. Report Of The Chief Executive Officer

a. Confirming Resolutions:

1) Resolution Regarding Finances, Personnel and Travel (15 – 2021)

Ms. Nytes mentioned that the resolution was routine and there was no travel this month.

Dr. Murtadha made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Biederman, to approve Resolution 15 – 2021, the Resolution Regarding Finances, Personnel and Travel.

Resolution 15 – 2021 was approved on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye
Dr. Jett – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye
Judge Salinas – Aye

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

b. **Discussion of Potential Adoption of Virtual Meetings Language**

Ms. Nytes asked Mr. Brown to discuss the bills currently being considered in the Indiana legislature concerning virtual meetings.

Mr. Brown talked about SB 369 and HB 1437. These bills create a framework for governing bodies regarding electronic participation at board meetings. Governing bodies must establish written rules regarding attendance and record keeping for virtual meetings. These bills may limit IndyPL’s ability to host board meetings completely virtually. SB 369 passed the Senate unanimously and HB 1437 passed the House with a vote of 86-7.

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:

April 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, April 26, 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 7:50 p.m.

Raymond Biederman, Secretary to the Board

