

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS:** Board President Carol Keeley called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and reviewed directions for evacuation and/or safety concerns with all present.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carol Keeley
Mary Karban
Mary Smith
Helen Thompson
Mary Stiehl
Victoria Weygandt
Rhonda Ross
Philip Silsby

EXCUSED:

Catherine Kreher

Leander Spearman and Gail Eisenhart were also present.

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

- III.** Mary Smith moved to accept minutes of the March 2016 Board meeting as recorded. Motion was seconded by Victoria Weygandt. Minutes were approved.

- IV. PERSONNEL/LEGAL:** Rhonda Ross read (to the group assembled) the letter sent to Mayor Eckert by the Library Board of Directors critiquing the performance of Library Director Leander Spearman.

- V. POLICY:** None reviewed

VI. PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS

- Mr. Spearman said the popularity of using Zinio online magazines is growing each month.
- Two additional oral histories of Belleville citizens have now been completed (total of 8 to date). The project is now searching for someone to record and edit future interviews. Mr. Spearman added that the recorded histories are now available on YouTube.
- Use of the large chess board and pieces began last week and appears to be popular with patrons.
- Mr. Spearman reported that he sent a letter to all IHLS libraries as IHLS Board President, advising that the SHARE Executive Council recently met to discuss the economic future of both organizations. The current Illinois financial crisis and the impending retirement of Jesse White, long-time Head State Librarian and advocate for Illinois libraries, could severely impact the future of libraries in the State. A general discussion followed.

VII. FINANCE

- Motion was made by Mary Stiehl and seconded by Mary Smith to pay the April 2016 claims. Regular claims were cited in the amount of \$29,151.50, prepaid claims \$22,307.70 and Petty Cash of \$344.45. Members were polled. Motion carried.
- Mr. Spearman reported the Library's new fiscal budget will go before the City Council next week. The budget adjustments could impact library staffing in the future. One current full-time opening

will be filled but there is no guarantee that any other openings will be resolved due to the hiring freeze imposed by the City. Future openings could also be reduced by attrition.

VIII. FUNDRAISING/PROMOTION/MARKETING:

- Because of its initial success, a second Murder Mystery fundraiser is being planned for the new fiscal year. The new project will be held off-site to accommodate more guests. Last year's performer has agreed to return for the event. Details are pending.

IX. LIBRARY REPORTS: Enclosed with information packets.

- **OLD BUSINESS:** The library's Microfilm Room will be re-named and dedicated to former Board of Directors member, Patricia Hamilton, who recently died. Details of the dedication are pending.

X. CLOSED SESSION: None

XI. NEW BUSINESS: A discussion of budgeting for materials was held. Mary Smith pointed out that many traditional printed book readers co-exist with the growing number of readers who prefer digital materials. The group discussed finding a balance as we move forward.

XII. ADJOURN: Motion was made by Rhonda Ross and seconded by Victoria Weygandt to adjourn. Motion carried. The March meeting of the Library Board of Directors adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Library Board of Directors will be held **Thursday**, May 12, 2016 at **6:30p.m.** at the Main library.

Submitted,
Gail Eisenhart
Administrative Assistant