The Library Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by President Isobel Osius on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 4:13 PM at Central Library. Board members present were Jennifer Fiihr and Bob Mahaffey. Wes Graham and Jule Thorsen were absent. Staff present included Director Sue Woody, Linda Roe, Sarah Scholten, Jon Hobbs, Tim Paluch, Katie McKenzie, Michelle Abrahamson, Jennifer Tormey, Ashley Molzen, Kate Young, Nikki Hayter, Brenda Hall, Brooklyn Jacobs and Bekki Kirkland. Also present were Ann DiDonato, City of Des Moines Legal, and Dory Briles, Library Foundation.

Introductions were made.

MINUTES

Board members reviewed the minutes of the July Board meeting. Mahaffey moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019 meeting. Fiihr seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Contraband Painting – Woody reported that the New York Historical Society and Smithsonian’s African American Museum are both interested in the painting. The New York Historical Society is sending their representative to Minneapolis to examine the painting. Woody’s goal is to have a resolution by mid-November.

NEW BUSINESS

Tentative Agreement – Unit 10 – Unit 10 has requested an extension of their existing contract for an additional two years, 2020 and 2021 with a wage increase of 2.25% each year. This will put Unit 10 and Unit 11 on the same renewal cycle. Mahaffey motioned to accept the two-year extension. Fiihr seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

CIP Update – Woody explained that the Library and the City have been working together to confirm our CIP projects. There are three projects, Central VFD Replacement, Central UPS Battery Replacement, and Franklin Avenue Vestibule Project, that are critical and need to be done this year. We have moved three projects, East Carpeting, East Sealant Project, and Franklin Glycol Line, out to FY24 to accommodate the additional projects. Woody gave a brief account of each project and the urgency surrounding each one. Fiihr motioned to approve all three additional projects. Mahaffey seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2020 Holiday Schedule – Woody presented the 2020 Holiday Schedule, taking our new hours into account. Mother’s Day has been removed from our schedule of holiday closings. We would have to allow for Father’s Day as a holiday as well and that would put us at 20 closed days per year. Fiihr motioned to accept the 2020 Holiday Schedule. Mahaffey seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Woody reviewed the Foundation gifts for the last three months and asked the Board members to accept the Foundation gifts in the total amount of $35,732.59. Mahaffey motioned to accept the Foundation gifts. Fiihr seconded the motion. All voted in favor and thanked the Foundation.

Board members reviewed the Check Register and Financial Report. Osius noted that the check register was not very helpful, and that they would like to see some comparison type of reporting. Woody assured her that we would work up something for their review. Woody informed the Board that our FY19 budget came in at 99% expended and that we received accolades from the City regarding our budget. Fiihr moved to receive and file the financial reports as presented. Mahaffey seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Woody complimented Linda Roe on her 13 years of service to the DMPL. Woody noted how Roe is closing out her career at the same places that she started, Forest Avenue Library. Sue complimented Roe on her years of outstanding service to the DMPL and the wealth of knowledge she is taking with her. Osius seconded everything Woody stated and extended the Board’s thanks to Roe for her years of service. Woody recognized Scholten stepping up as the new Deputy Director, Hobbs taking Supervising Librarian at Central, and Young as Senior Librarian at North. Osius thanked all DMPL staff for outstanding work during all the recent changes. Woody expounded on the new website launching on October 7, 2019, with many thanks to Community Engagement and Technical Services for their diligence in making this happen. September was Library Card Sign Up month and Woody stated we had 1,300 new card sign ups, complimenting staff for the publicity, social media ads, and campaigns. Woody explained that all the North Side Library Project paperwork is completed and plans are in place to maintain the properties until the moving of the houses takes place.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Briles handed out the Iowa Author’s Dinner brochure. Briles stated that the live and silent auctions raised $20,000.00. John Sanford was an excellent speaker, talking about how important libraries were in his life, encouraging others to support local libraries. Briles noted that we have received a $10,000.00 grant from Union Pacific Railroad towards 2020 AViD. Osius thanked Briles for her efforts.

RECESS

The Board recessed at 5:00 PM to hold a non-public discussion, exempt from open meeting requirements pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5.

RECONVENE

Board members reconvened in an open meeting at 5:32 PM.

ACTION ON DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Fiihr made a motion to increase Library Director, Sue Woody’s annual compensation to $161,000.00 retroactive back to July 1, 2019. Mahaffey seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by declaration at 5:36 PM.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at 4:15 PM, November 19, 2019 at the Central Library Board Room.