

BURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Virtual Special Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 4, 2020

Purpose: To discuss the Summer Newsletter, Board Member appointment, reopening/curbside update.

Microsoft Teams Meeting access provided to the public via the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWVhM2MwYmUtODY4Zi00YTA0LTk3OTktMjUwZjgwYWU4Yzdl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22892462e0-6630-4d5b-a311-b900ff1e4337%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226de162bb-23d2-40e4-b67f-5d00dd861686%22%7d

Present: Board members: Kathy Beten, Sue Miller, Kristine Thompson, Matt Connors, Dawn Tolchinsky, John Emig and Judy Starr (joined at 7:07 PM); Director Katie Ringenbach, and Fiscal Officer Rebecca Herrick. Public present: BPL Tech Services Supervisor Becky Wiegman (joined at 7:14 PM), Mark O'Conner (joined at 7:17 PM)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board President John Emig.

New Business:

- Summer Newsletter:

The Board stated that all had the opportunity to read the draft of the Director's Letter for the summer newsletter. When asked, Katie said that she did not include mention of patrons wearing masks in the building because the Board had not made a decision/policy change regarding the topic. A discussion ensued. It was stated that wearing a mask reduces transmission from 20 percent to close to 3 percent. Katie told the Board the Ritter Public Library is requiring patrons to wear masks. County prosecutors have expressed differing opinions; Katie will contact Geauga County Prosecutor Jim Flaiz for his opinion. The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor has stated that libraries need to make reasonable accommodations for all services, even computer usage, perhaps taking laptops to library parking lots for patron use. It was suggested that the Governors Proclamation for business reopening be reviewed as it covers mask requirement by customers. This Proclamation recommends that customer wear masks in businesses, unless not mandated. Akron is making an accommodation for people who do not want to or cannot wear masks by allowing admission during the last hour of the day. Katie stated that Geauga County Public Library has not made this decision and will not be considering the details for reopening to the public until June 15. The Board expressed the highest restriction to the public should be a strong recommendation to wear masks, but Katie said that she and staff would prefer that masks be mandated for entry. Staff could tell people that prefer to be without a mask that they may enter during the last hour of the day. The newsletter will go to the printer early next week and will include a statement that the Board is discussing the use of masks by the public when using the Library, to please refer to the posting on Library entrances and please be prepared.

- Board Member Appointment:

Note: Prior to the Board meeting Mark O'Conner was contacted to learn if he was still interested in joining the Board of Trustees of Burton Public Library. He confirmed his continued interest.

38-2020 Kristine Thompson moved to recommend to the Board of the Berkshire Local School District the name of Mark O'Conner to fill the unexpired term of Burton Library Board Trustee John Emig, whose term ends December 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Sue Miller and the resolution was passed by the following voice vote:

Kristine Thompson – Yes
Dawn Tolchinsky – Yes

Sue Miller – Yes
John Emig – Yes
Matt Connors - Yes

Kathy Beten – Yes
Judy Starr – Yes

Mark O'Conner joined the meeting as a member of the public and was welcomed by the Board.

- Re-Opening Curbside Service update:

There were 210 patrons that utilized Curbside Service in May. Curbside continues to go well and staff is going to continue to work on moving forward with the next step. Katie will have a plan to propose at the next Board meeting.

Regarding re-opening; Katie participated in the North East Ohio-Regional Library System Director's meeting yesterday where other library's plans for re-opening were discussed. These included Geauga, Portage, and Wayne Counties; Fairport Harbor; Henderson and Mentor among others. She told the Board of their announced plans. Dates for reopening vary from currently open to sometime in July. Many other libraries are still considering when to reopen.

John Emig took the opportunity to thank the Board for allowing him to participate as a Board member and have some input with how the Library operates. He said, "It's been a pleasure to serve."

The Board briefly discussed the change in leadership with John's resignation. Vice President Matt Connors will act as President. The Board By-Laws will be consulted for the correct procedure for the replacement of an Officer prior to the regular Board meeting on June 18.

Public Comments: None

39-2020 Kathy Beten moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dawn Tolchinsky and the resolution was passed unanimously by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca S. Herrick
Library Fiscal Officer