

**Pontiac Public Library
Governing Board Members Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date and Time

Date of Meeting: June 24, 2021
Time of Meeting: 5:30 PM

Meeting Location

Location of Meeting: Pontiac Public Library
60 E Pike St
Pontiac, Michigan 48342

Meeting Attendees

Present at Meeting: Madam Chair Hatchett
Vice Chair Earl
Secretary Rutherford
Treasurer Maxey
Trustee Richardson
Trustee Duvall

The regular meeting of the governing Board Members of the Pontiac Public Library was called to order at 5:30 PM on June 24, 2021 at the Pontiac Public Library by Madam Chair Mattie Hatchett.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed and unanimously approved.

II. Review of Previous Minutes

1. Agenda Statement Amended

Madam Chair Hatchett

Minutes were looked at from May 27th, 2021.

Madam Chair questioned a statement made on page 5 that was incorrect. A motion was put on the floor to correct this. It stated that Chair Hatchett stated that "some much capital" concerning the cost of elevator. Trustee Richardson asked if Madame Chair made the statement. Madame Chair stated that she said "so much" and not "some much", and that it wasn't correct in the minutes.

A motion to entertain and change the correction was made by Madam Chair.

Madam entertain a motion to approve May 27th 2021 minutes. Second by Secretary Rutherford and supported by Treasurer Maxey.

Roll call: Madame Chair - Yes, Vice Chair - Yes, Trustee Duvall - Yes, Trustee Richardson - Yes, Trustee Maxey - Yes

Motion Passed

2. Motion to Approve the Juneteenth Minutes.

Madam Chair entertained a motion to approve the Juneteenth minutes. Secretary Rutherford approve the motion, Second by Trustee Duvall.

Roll Call - Roll call: Madam Chair Hatchett- Yes, Vice Chair Earl- Yes, Trustee Duvall Yes, Trustee Richardson - Yes, Trustee Maxey - Yes

Motion Passed

III. Public Comments

Public Comments were opened by Madam Chair Hatchett

1. Renee Beckley - Firing of Director

Ms. Beckley contested the firing of the Devan Green who she felt was fired without cause. Ms. Beckley also alleged that members of the board had conspired to remove Ms. Green to obtained her position for Ms. Rosie Richardson. Ms. Beckley alleged that Mr. Maxey, Ms. Melonie Rutherford and Ms. Richardson all conspired to fire the director to gain control of the budget.

3. The Pancake Shelter

Mr. Anthony Peters

Mr. Peters was invited by Mr. Evans to make a pitch for the Pancake Pavilion to promote his Shrimp business in the area.

Madam Chair suggested Mr. Peters draw up a proposal with a budget and submit it to Mr. Richardson. The Chair will put together a 3 member sub-committee to look at the proposal. Mr. Peters ask if he could utilize the space but Madame Chair told him that the building cannot be used until it is brought up to code. Mr. Peters can have move time to work on his proposal and he can then be put on the agenda to speak to the board.

4. Firing Of Director And Abuse Of Ethics

Mr. Christian Marcello

Mr. Marcello expressed his dismay on the firing of Devan Green who was the director at the time. He would like for the board to revisit a new direction before approving a budget until a new Director could be hired. He would like to recommend the board using a different approach to redo the employee handbook that allowed the board to fire at will.

IV. Consideration of New Business

1. Profit and Loss Budget Overview

Mr. Harden

Description of budget for July 2020 thru May 2021 and an overview of how much is available in the budget and the expenditures of the library operating expenses.

The balance sheet was reviewed as well and total assets have been examined.

Treasure report was reviewed as well and totals have be examined. Expense account was reviewed and have been examined.

This concludes the financial report by Mr. Harden

Secretary Rutherford made the motion to approve the financial budget as read. Trustee Richardson support the motion and roll was called.

Madam Chair - Yes, Trustee Richardson- Yes, Treasurer Maxey – Yes

Motion Passed

2. 2021-2022 Library Budget

Mr. Harden read the total income for the operating budget for the year 2021 - 2022.

Madam Chair entertained a motion to approve the budget - Secretary Rutherford approved motion and Vice Chair supported the motion.

Questions and discussions:

Madam Chair thanked Mr. Harden for clearing up the confusion because at the last meeting, I can't speak for anybody else but I was confused and understanding finances is not my strongest suit. So, he has been very patient and working with us to get these figures in a more condensed and understanding way. He's very patient. And I just like to commend him on the job that he did.

Trustee Richardson – Yes. I also would like to say that not only did he worked with us, but he went all the way to the state level. Well, the state library, in terms of how budgets should be presented, and put it in the correct order so we would know how we've done that is a correct way it was supposed to be done. And so the categories and everything that we're looking at now are based on the what the State of Michigan libraries are required to do. And that hadn't been done. So I commend you.

Trustee Maxey - I want to echo the same. Prior to this, the state was looking at our monies, our budget, and was saying they're in violation, but after Mr. harden started explaining to us, through our

meetings of the committee, and I said thanks to the committee, because for the three hours that we were spending three days a week, 3-6-9 hours in a week was great. And I really understand now what's happening and why the state was saying, I will find you if you do not bring all your paperwork up to date. Thank you, Mr. harden, you saved us a whitewash

Trustee Rutherford – Facts is facts and fiction is fiction. I first want to thank Edmond as well because Edmond and him **have** communication that has changed drastically from the last two sessions, facts is every year, every year, we got a letter from state of Michigan, it's complaining about the way our budget was complaining about how oversights and that's facts and can be read in the past notes if somebody wants to read them. What I learned this time is about transparency, which is absolutely necessary. So Mr. B as I always call you, I appreciate you for doing your due diligence beyond the toxicity that was trying to be created and being professional at all times. So I just want to thank you personally. Thank you so much and go to sleep now.

Roll Call - Madam Chair - Yes, Vice-Chair - sustained, Treasurer Maxey - Yes, Trustee Richardson - Yes.

Motion Passed

V.Action Items

4. Interim Director Application Agreement

Madam Chair - Okay, you should have received before this meeting an Interim Library Director, employment agreement with an attachment A to it. In the attachment A spells out the roles and responsibility of this person. And probably pretty much spells out what director should do, I will tell you that in the process of trying to get this together, it was discovered that we had no job description on file.

And that's one of the things we're going to really have is several things that I know as chair and interim committee, we discovered that was not there, not in people personnel files. And so we got some work that we need to do to make us the first class library that we really are and can be. So, I hope you had a chance to read this and it starts on page 19.

Trustee Richardson - Can I say something first, Madam Chair?

Madam Chair – Yes

Trustee Richardson - Now, there was a job description. Prior to, may not have been in the files or anything, but in order to initially bring the past director on, we had, we had to vote on that. And the Attorney for labor, put it together. So there was one, we would not have offered her the position, and she had her attorney look over it before she would sign it. So there was one in place. Although there was none in her file. There was one in place. So you can't say that there wasn't one that, you can say.

Madam Chair – I can say that for myself. I'm just telling you it wasn't there one,

Trustee Richardson - But I'm just telling you that there was one. And so if you look back at the minutes from where she was, you know, voted into position. All that was read. I just want to be clear about that.

Madam Chair - I wished I had known that I could have gone back.

Madam Chair - Ok now, I want to continue, so having looked at this are there some questions or additions, I would like to get this voted on tonight.

Secretary Rutherford – I make a motion to approve from page 19 the Interim Director agreement.

Trustee Richardson - I support.

Madam Chair - Now, further discussion and questions.

Trustee Richardson – Madam Chair, I just want to say based on this information about the interim director, that it is indeed an interim director position. And the person is qualified, they've been in the library for over 22 years later, and has worked in conjunction not only for the Pontiac library but Auburn Hills library. And so they have the skills and the knowledge. And they've been working diligently, along with Mr. Harden to make sure that everything was done. So he is qualified to do the job. And he has worked very diligently with the staff. And I'm excited about it. And I think everything that's in there that was created by the labor attorney is in order. And I think it's something that we should actually vote on. I'm comfortable with it.

Treasurer Maxey – Dispute resolution. We talked about this with Edmond. In our meetings. And one thing as interim he understands, we ran into a lot of problems with the former. And I've heard him say from his mouth, that he really understood as the interim, what dispute resolution is about. That's all. So I just wanted to make that very clear. And I appreciate that for him for making that statement.

Secretary Rutherford – I just want to say that I'm excited for the future of the Pontiac Public Library. And I'm excited for the interim director. That's all.

Trustee Richardson - And in addition, the interim position does mean exactly that. And it is specified that it is during a period of time where we make a search to the Michigan Library Association, which actually has a post for a job posting to be done and that is being done so that we have a search out there for the position, it's not just like we go to any street and ask your friends if they want the

position. He understands it is an interim position and he has stepped above and beyond to do the job and I am happy about that.

Madam Chair – I want to make it clear that no one on this board is eligible to serve in that capacity. I want to make that perfectly clear.

Trustee Richardson – Or interested.

Madam Chair – Well, I can only say what I know.

Treasurer Maxey – We will conduct the search and do due diligence. We have got to be there and look at the guidelines on how we do our search. No elected board member can serve.

Madame Chair – Any other discussion or comments.

Madam Chair Hatchett - Yes, Vice-Chair Earl- Yes, Trustee Richardson - Yes, Treasurer Maxey - Yes, Secretary Rutherford - Yes

Motion Passed

5. XP Gaming

Motion for removal of the proposal from the agenda to move forward with the gaming system.

Madam Chair – Any comments or questions?

Madam Chair – As you know we had a closed session with our attorney and she advised us as to what we could and could not do. We found out that at the advice of our attorney that there were certain things under the law that we could not do. We need to take action on this and decide what will we do as a board.

Trustee Richardson – Madam Chair I make a motion to remove the proposal for the XP Gaming for consideration for the Pontiac Library.

Secretary Rutherford – I second the motion.

Madam Chair – I want the people to know why; our attorney said it was illegal. We also later found out that the room they selected flooded and they had to bring people in to clean it up. We don't know where the water came from.

Roll Call - Madam Chair Hatchett - Yes, Vice-Chair Earl- Yes, Treasurer Maxey - Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Secretary Rutherford – Yes

Motion Passed

Pavilion

Madam Chair – I received a letter from the leadership of the cuisine group. They removed their request for the pavilion.

Trustee Richardson – Madam Chair I make a motion that we accept their request for removal of the proposal for consideration for the Pontiac Public Library.

Secretary Rutherford – I second the motion.

Madam Chair – Any discussion or questions. Again, I want to say that it is the same reason as the XP gaming program, the state law and our attorney said that it is illegal for us to do it.

Madam Chair – Ok, votes. Roll call.

Secretary Rutherford – Madam Chair, she has her hand up.

Trustee Richardson - In respect for this motion being withdrawn, that also there is consideration for the past use of the pavilion, when people are able to utilize it on an individual basis and nothing for lease.

Madam Chair - And I have to follow through with the health department. And work with Edmond, else nobody can use it. Like I had said, you almost need to tear it down if we are not going to use it.

Vice-Chair – Build a playground.

Madam Chair - Yes put a playground. But, I will get with him and we'll get the health department. I got the sheet where they did spell out stuff but I would like to personally talk with them and then afterwards get back with us about the future of the pavilion. What are we going to do with it, because we have already made an investment, that stove and stuff are out there and I want to know if the health department said that it is a requirement. I know they said the ceiling tile and some other stuff. So, I will get with Edmond and meet with the health department because I would like to see us use it but I want it to pass the health code. I will do that.

Trustee Richardson - I had said before and you will see in the last couple of minutes, that I had said that we needed to have maintenance and upgrades anyway. So if we brought the stove it's just an upgrade from where it hadn't been changed since the 1960's. So I think that it will be added value to

what we have and it will make it easier when people come in to use it as long as we have a safer license to do the Pancake Pavilion.

Madam Chair – Ok, it will be back on the agenda or after the health department come in.

Trustee Richardson – Or after the repairs are made.

Madam Chair – Yes we talked about that. We are talking about the ceiling tile must be replaced and some other stuff. Yes, we talked about that before we bring them in.

Madam Chair - Any other questions and comments? Roll call.

Roll Call - Madam Chair Hatchett - Yes, Vice-Chair Earl- Yes, Treasurer Maxey - Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Secretary Rutherford – Yes

Motion Passed

Chair Report

Madam Chair – The only thing I wanted to say is, I had a wonderful time, Saturday at the Juneteenth celebration. We had a very diverse group of people that came and participated. The staff worked like a well-oiled machine. I want to give kudos to Edmond Richardson, for what he did and the leadership that he provided. She's not here, but Marlene Marion must have drugged in everybody in her family to volunteer and to work a station. We had a tiny bit of rain, but I am telling you that those children enjoyed. The people bought a horse too, plus the ponies and some of the kids rode the horse and some the ponies. They had something very unique where they had little headbands and different stuff that the kids could put on the horses and goats and things and we had a little fawn that was here whose mother had been killed on the highway and the lady had raised it until it was ready to be back out with the others.

We had a crew here who put the flowers out and Edmond said that he would make sure that the flowers were water so they could stay there. And Perry Earl I know you were pleased with that because it's been about three years now where you had mentioned that you wanted to see some flowers and stuff out there except for that perennials stuff. I know you were pleased with that; they just have to keep them watered.

Vice-Chair Earl – Did someone donate them and you all planted them?

Madam Chair – No we paid for them. What we have to check is that Edmond is not sure that the faucet out there is working, right?

Edmond – Yes, there is but there is a mechanical issue it can be turned on I think but you have to have a tool.

Vice-Chair – The sprinkler system or just the water part?

Trustee Richardson – The tap. We are going to get a plumber to look at it and other leaks.

Madam Chair - We will get a plumber to look at it. Right?

Trustee Richardson – When the plumber comes to look at the other leaks he will take a look at it. We have been dealing with it for seven years.

Madam Chair - But it was wonderful, and the kids had food and it is just the beginning, we have to have more because we gave the kids' books and they picked their own books and we hope that will encourage them to participate in the summer reading program.

I just want to thank everyone and that young man thanked me, the volunteer who was digging up the dirt, he thanked me for helping him and for showing what to do to put plants in the ground.

That's my report and I had a wonderful time and I hope it will get us going. So that's my report and I entertain a motion to accept my report.

Secretary Rutherford – I make a motion to accept your report.

Treasurer Maxey - I second it.

Roll Call - Madam Chair Hatchett - Yes, Vice-Chair Earl- Yes, Treasurer Maxey - Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Secretary Rutherford – Yes

Motion Passed

Board Comments

Madam Chair – I told Edmond that he has not been aboard long enough to make board comments and that it will be on the agenda next time.

Trustee Richardson - I will start with good news

Madam Chair - Any questions or comments.

V. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting – TBA
Public Library
60 E Pike St
Pontiac, Michigan
48342

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM by Ms. Mattie Hachett.