

Ypsilanti District Library  
Board of Trustees - Virtual Meeting  
Minutes, April 29, 2020 (Unapproved)

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jean Winborn called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance**

Trustees Present: Kay Williams, Theresa M. Maddix, Bethany Kennedy, Kristy Cooper, Jean Winborn, Patricia Horne McGee and Brian Steimel

Also present: Director Lisa Hoenig, Assistant Director Julianne Smith, Business Office Manager Monica Gower, Head of Outreach Services Mary Garboden, Michigan Avenue Branch Manager Joy Cichewicz, Adult Head Librarian Paula Drummond, Customer Service Clerk Jerome Drummond, Capital Campaign Coordinator Christina McMullen, Acquisitions Head Sarah Zawacki, Facilities Manager Jim Reed, Adult Librarian Christy Havens and Youth Librarian Patricia Mitchell.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Trustee Williams moved to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee McGee supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: Williams, Winborn, Cooper, Kennedy, Maddix, McGee and Steimel  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joy Cichewicz wanted to thank the board for standing with us and supporting us while we are going through this hard time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Steimel moved to approve the consent agenda (February 26, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes, and February and March 2020 Financials and Check Registers)

Trustee Maddix supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: Williams, Winborn, Maddix, Kennedy, Cooper, McGee and Steimel  
Nays: None  
Motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Superior Township Planning:
  - Lisa has had a couple of meetings with Dan Whisler that were productive. Lisa got to look at some brick. The preliminary sight plan was submitted to the planning commission in February. YDL was expected to be on their agenda but unfortunately due to the crisis both March and April meetings were canceled. The earliest the library could on their agenda is May. It is doubtful the library will be able to break ground before the early spring. Lisa also heard from supervisor Ken Swartz about the potential for the Washtenaw county road commission to finance the road project for the library. They said no. The library was hoping to get a deal to pay back the road commission over time. It was denied. The wait for the road commission for a year has added a lot of expense to the budget.

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**REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

In addition to submitted Director's report, Director Hoenig relayed the following:

- Lisa thinks that the department reports are really very informative and paint a vivid picture of what the library has been up to during the closure . Library staff has not stopped working. Staff really cares about what happening in the community and is trying to provide the best and most effective service they can without our building being open . They are doing a lot and Lisa is proud of all of the staff and what that are working on.
- The DTE grant that was submitted last Friday will no longer be considered for the type of project the library submitted for. It is now going to Covid 19 concerns.
- Julianne increased the library's Hoopla. Borrows per patron per month are now 16. Patrons will be able to get more things over the course of the month from Hoopla streaming or download. It will make a lot of people happy.
- When the library first closed Jodi Krahnke from the YDL youth department developed a Spring challenge. There have been gradual additions. We now have 333 participants.
- The library also recently launched a virtual community read. It is a Facebook group, it has 13 members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution to affirm Director's staff compensation decisions during COVID-19 closure

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-13

April 29, 2020

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STAFF COMPENSATION DURING THE COVID-19 LIBRARY CLOSURE

Whereas, the Library closed March 13, 2020 in the interest of public health and has remained closed by order of the Governor of the State of Michigan since that date, and

Whereas, YDL staff have been working from home, each at their own capacity, to continue serving patrons during the COVID-19 crisis, and

Whereas, the YDL staff are the library's greatest asset, and their wages were already budgeted for this fiscal year, and

Whereas, after conferring with individual Trustees, the Library Director approved pay during the closure for all staff who work an established number of regular hours, and

Whereas, no Paid Time Off has been charged to or accrued by staff during this time, Now Therefore **IT IS RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD** that:

Staff compensation as described above is approved to continue until the Stay Home, Stay Safe order is lifted or the Board resolves otherwise.

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OFFERED BY: Brian Steimel

SUPPORTED BY: Horne – McGee

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: 7-0

B. Discussion of a potential waiver of overdue fines

Trustees discussed the possibility of a fine amnesty or the library becoming fine free. They discussed a possible timeline if they were to do this. Board would like staff feedback. This is also part of the strategic plan so it will be looked at again. The equity diversity and inclusion workgroup will look at whether fines hurt the people who need the library the most.

C. Discussion of potential reopening

The library has assembled three different groups to work on a plan for re-opening. OSHA requires the library to create a Covid 19 preparedness and response plan. There are so many things to think about in this process of reopening. The workgroups have determined some guidelines to follow. There will need to be flexibility

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Jean	I just wanted to thank the staff for engaging the community and all the resources that are available through our library. It is just wonderful the things the library is doing for the community. So, I would just like to thank the staff for that.
Kay	Its been good to see you all. I haven't seen you for months. I missed the February meeting and then here we are. Its good to see you. I also was very impressed with all the things the staff is doing. The reports it took me hours to read them. I'm also glad we can continue to pay staff. They are still working and doing a good job. I am concerned about the future finances. We will have lots of amendments. We can do it, but I am concerned about that. I am very very sad about keeping Superior off another year. The only possible good thing that might come from that is that we will be in a new fiscal year and have more money. Not starting this year breaks my heart. We will get through it. We always do. I am glad we are all on the same page and don't argue. It would be awful doing this with a board that was divided.
Patricia	I just wanted to say I agree with Kay on a lot of things. Especially the disappointment with Superior. I am just real disappointed about the late start. I just wanted to say I got one of the calls I guess for senior citizens and I was thrilled. I wasn't here to answer the phone but when I got the message I was thrilled. Keep up the good work. I know a lot of people will appreciate it.
Bethany	I would like to echo all the sentiments for thanking the staff for their hard work and their good work. I think it shows what an amazing community resource YDL is. Keep up the good work.

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Theresa	I too want to echo the thanks for the good work. There is so much in that packet about the phone calls that are happening. That's such a wonderful service. Its so fantastic that the library is offering it at a time when seniors are stuck at home. I also wanted to say I really enjoyed the jazz story time. It was exciting to see Marlena. I think that when we come back from this we will come back to a very different world . Having a staff that can be as efficient at learning new things and dive in do things very differently. I think we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful staff.
Bethany	I have to echo the same things about the staff. One of the saddest things for me from this whole event is going by the library and seeing it empty. To see our building empty. I go by Whittaker rd. and Michigan Avenue and there is no one there. That truly makes me sad. When I can go online and see Jodi and Marlena doing storytelling and stuff and seeing them reach out to our patrons and know they are connecting . It really makes me thing we are doing something for the greater good and I gotta love them all. I think I hear an echo that our staff is doing a great job of serving the community.
Kristy	I also wanted to say I have been impressed . I have seen a lot of library's and what they are doing to try to adjust to do remote programming when no one was expecting it. What I have seen from YDL is impressive compared to what a lot of other libraries are doing right now. I also think the phone calls to seniors are great. They help them feel connected right now.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Williams moved to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Trustee Horne- McGee seconded this motion.

Vote: Ayes: Williams, Winborn, Maddix, Cooper, Kennedy, McGee and Steimel

Nays: None

Motion passed.