

May 20, 2021

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library held virtually via Zoom, Thursday, May 20, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER

Mark Prosperi, President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Members present: Mark Prosperi, President; Gene Griffin, Vice President; Shabnam Mahmood, Secretary; Mira Barbir; Noreen Winningham; Michelle Mallari; Magnolia Rivera-Pulex

Staff present: Richard Kong, Director; Tim Murphy, Building Services Manager; Monica Chavez, Administrative Assistant to the Director

Observers present: Randy Marquardt, left meeting at 6:40 pm

Guests present: Tom Hutchinson, Hutchinson Design Group; John Shales, Josh Campanelli, Jim Clark, Jason Perkunas, Chris Shields, Mike Leonard, Alan Armbrust, Shales McNutt Construction/STR-SEG; Thomas Zordan, Sebastian Koprowski, ACG

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

There were no comments from observers.

INTERVIEWS FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Tom Hutchinson of Hutchinson Design Group entered the meeting at 6:36 pm and gave his presentation to the Board and answered questions from the Trustees.

John Shales and the team from Shales McNutt Construction and STR-SEG entered the meeting at 7:13 pm and gave their presentation to the Board and answered questions from the Trustees.

Sebastian Koprowski and Thomas Zordan from ACG entered the meeting at 7:48 pm and gave their presentation to the Board and answered questions from the Trustees.

Consensus was reached with regards to the ranking of the three firms with Hutchinson being first, then SMC/STR-SEG, and ACG third. Mr. Prosperi asked Mr. Kong to follow up with Mr. Hutchinson with regards to the number of contractors and materials suppliers (and therefore warranties) he predicts for the project, and if he anticipates any of the sections of the roof not needing to be replaced at this time. Mr. Kong will email Mr. Hutchinson's answers to the trustees and if there are no objections, will move to work out an agreement with Hutchinson Design Group with regards to the professional design services.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

Mr. Prosperi commented that he felt that capacity limits should be increased.

Ms. Mahmood asked what effect vaccination rates have on the state's decisions around capacity limits. Ms. Mallari asked if there have been instances of patrons waiting to come into the building with the current capacity limits. Mr. Griffin estimated that full capacity of the library is approximately 750 people. He asked if, once the Governor lifts restrictions, would the library do the same.

Ms. Rivera-Pulex said that even if the state were to lift all of the restrictions by June 11, the library is allowed to have its own policy.

Mr. Kong commented that he is not seeing an urgent need to raise the capacity drastically. He shared the rationale behind raising capacity limits over the next four weeks and continually assessing how these changes impact the library's services in the building.

Ms. Winningham expressed a desire to celebrate and communicate the completion of the renovation to the public as a way to stimulate more people to visit the library. Ms. Mallari suggested limiting capacity in certain areas where people may be in closer proximity and expressed support for the reopening plan as Mr. Kong presented it.

Mr. Griffin shared that according to the Skokie Health Department, as of May 3, 56% of adults 16 and over in Skokie had been fully vaccinated. These numbers are significantly ahead of the state. Hopefully those numbers continue to increase. Mr. Kong said this is why he feels that dialing things up over the next few weeks will not have drastically negative effects. What it will do is instill more confidence in our patrons and staff and help us do it in a responsible, measured way. Mr. Prosperi asked the Board about how they feel about meeting in person. He suggested returning to in person meetings in July.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 pm a motion was made by Ms. Mallari, seconded by Ms. Mahmood to adjourn the annual meeting. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Shabnam Mahmood, Board Secretary