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MINUTES

Board of Library Trustees of the Batavia Public Library District

Special Meeting

Tuesday • 22 September 2020 • 6:00 p.m.
MEETING TOOK PLACE VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Smith called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and read the following statement.

This meeting of the Board of Library Trustees is held without a quorum of Trustees physically present and is authorized by Governor Pritzker pursuant to “COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5” (16 March 2020) and by the Government Emergency Administration Act (Public Act 100–0640; eff. 6/12/20).

Pursuant to said Public Act, which in part amended the Open Meetings Act, I have determined that an in-person meeting is neither practical nor prudent because of the COVID-19 disaster. As a result, I have further determined that it is not feasible to require the physical presence of a Trustee, the Library Director, or the Library’s attorney at the regular meeting location. The minutes of this meeting will include the foregoing statement.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

3. **Call the Roll**

Trustee Russo read the following statement.

Pursuant to the aforementioned Government Emergency Administration Act, please note that a roll call vote is now required for all motions. Further, as I call the roll, please verify that you can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony.

Trustees Present via Electronic Means: Diane L. Blodgett, Jennifer M. Culotta, Katherine A. Garrett, Elizabeth P. Larson, Jo Ann Smith, and Daniel R. Russo

Trustees Absent: Michael E. MacKenzie

Staff Members Present (or Registered) via Electronic Means: Director George H. Scheetz, Michele M. Domel, Kerry K. Halter, H. Joseph McKane, Kathy A. Moecher, Lisa M. Moore, and Joanne C. Zillman

Visitors Present via Electronic Means: Jody M. Kanikula (arrived at 6:03 p.m.); Sylvia S. Keppel; Batavia resident; and Gil Pender (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)

4. **Comments from the Audience**

In advance of the meeting, Sylvia S. Keppel, of Batavia, Illinois, submitted a seven-page report, “TIF 6: Breaking the Rules,” which, in the interest of time, she summarized briefly. She urged the Trustees to vote against the proposed Near East Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District No. 6.

5. **Approve the Agenda**

Trustee Smith asked whether there were any changes to the agenda.

Motion by Trustee Smith to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Larson. Roll Call: Blodgett aye; Culotta, aye; Garrett, aye; Larson, aye; Russo, aye; Smith, aye. The motion carried 6–0, with one member absent.

6. **Near East Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District No. 6** (Standing Committee on Policy)

Trustee Smith stated that the purpose of this agenda item—which was deferred from the regular meeting on Tuesday, 15 September 2020—was to decide whether to express support for the “Near East Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No. 6” and, by so doing, authorize Trustee Smith and/or Director Scheetz (as her alternate) to vote in favor of TIF District No. 6 at the upcoming meeting of the Batavia TIF Joint Review Board.

Several reports were distributed to the Board of Library Trustees in advance of the meeting:—

- “Redevelopment Plan and Program, City of Batavia, Illinois”
- Slide show (on PowerPoint), presented by Laura M. Newman, City Administrator, at the Board meeting on 15 September 2020
- “TIFs and Public Library Districts in Illinois,” a special report from the Illinois Library Association, which was based on the relevant law
- Board report by Director Scheetz

The relevant law on this subject is 65 ILCS 5 / 11–74.4–3 (7.7), which states that, on or after 1 January 2005 (the effective date of Public Act 93–961), library districts are entitled to reimbursement if serving an area containing TIF-assisted housing units.

Trustee Smith noted that, pursuant to *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, there are particular steps for every motion, which include the Motion, the Second, the Debate, and the Vote.

The Motion and the Second

Motion by Trustee Smith to express support for the “Near East Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No. 6” and authorize Trustee Smith and/or Director Scheetz (as her alternate) to vote in favor of TIF District No. 6 at the upcoming meeting of the Batavia TIF Joint Review Board. Seconded by Trustee Russo.

The Debate

Trustee Smith stated that the question was open for debate. A lively discussion followed on TIF District No. 6 and its impact on the Library.

Trustee Smith stated that her analysis was based on the impact of the TIF district on the Library. Her deliberations were based on her role and obligations as a Trustee rather than her position as a resident and taxpayer. She then presented a summary of her research and deliberations. Trustee Smith observed (in conclusion) that no scenario was detrimental to the Library in which TIF District No. 6 was approved. Discussion followed.

Trustee Culotta expressed her appreciation to Director Scheetz and H. Joseph McKane, the Library's Finance Specialist, for providing the Board, in a timely manner, with the information needed to make an informed decision, and Trustee Smith, for putting on her "Trustee hat" and focusing on the Library's best interest. Discussion followed.

Trustee Larson, Trustee Russo, Trustee Blodgett, and Trustee Garrett concurred. Trustee Russo remarked that the economic development represented by the TIF district was an investment in the Library's future.

Trustee Larson observed that the TIF district was a complicated issue and not without consequences.

Trustee Smith called the question.

The Vote

Motion by Trustee Smith to express support for the "Near East Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No. 6" and authorize Trustee Smith and/or Director Scheetz (as her alternate) to vote in favor of TIF District No. 6 at the upcoming meeting of the Batavia TIF Joint Review Board. Seconded by Trustee Russo. Roll Call: Blodgett aye; Culotta, aye; Garrett, aye; Larson, aye; Russo, aye; Smith aye. The motion carried, 6-0, with one member absent.

Trustee Smith expressed her appreciation to the Board of Library Trustees for its thoughtful discussion.

Keppel expressed her appreciation to the Board of Library Trustees for its consideration.

7. Next Meetings or Events

- a. *Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read (since 1982), Sunday–Saturday, 27 September–3 October 2020 — 2020 Theme: Censorship Is a Dead End*
- b. *154th Anniversary of Library Service in Batavia (October 1866–2020), October 2020*
- c. {NEW} *TeenTober (formerly Teen Read Week™ in October and Teen Tech Week in March), October 2020 — launched in 2019 to celebrate teens and teen services in libraries*
- d. *Columbus Day (Observed) (2nd Monday in October), Monday, 12 October 2020, Library Open [F]*
- e. ***Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 20 October 2020, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room***
- f. *ILA Annual Conference (Virtual Conference), Tuesday–Thursday, 20–22 October 2020*
- g. *Daylight Saving Time Ends (Standard Time Resumes) at 2:00 a.m. (1st Sunday in November), Sunday, 1 November 2020*

- h. *General Election Day (in even-numbered years, the Tuesday after the first Monday in November), Tuesday, 3 November 2020, Library Open [I, as both “General Election Day” (205 ILCS 630/17) and “2020 General Election Day” (Public Act 101–0642; 10 ILCS 5/2B-10; eff. 6/16/20), a new, one-time state holiday]*
- i. *Fall Children’s Book Week (since 2019), Monday–Sunday, 4–10 November 2020 — “A great nation is a reading nation.”—Melcher — 2020 Theme: Read. Dream. Share. [Note: In a story fraught with irony, the original Children’s Book Week was moved from November to May in 2008.]*
- j. *International Games Week, Sunday–Saturday, 8–14 November 2020 — launched in 2008 to focus on the social and recreational side of gaming*
- k. *Veterans Day, Wednesday, 11 November 2020, Library Open [F]*
- l. ***Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 17 November 2020, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room***
- m. *Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, 25 November 2020, Library Closed at 5:00 p.m.*
- n. *Thanksgiving (4th Thursday in November), Thursday, 26 November 2020, Library Closed [F]*
- o. *Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, 27 November 2020, Library Open*
- p. ***Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 15 December 2020, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room***
- q. *Christmas Eve, Thursday, 24 December 2020, Library Closed*
- r. *Christmas, Friday, 25 December 2020, Library Closed [F]*
- s. *New Year’s Eve, Thursday, 31 December 2020, Library Closed at 12:00 noon*
- t. *New Year’s Day, Friday, 1 January 2021, Library Closed [F]*

8. **Adjournment**

Motion by Trustee Smith to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Blodgett. Roll Call: Blodgett aye; Culotta, aye; Garrett, aye; Larson, aye; Russo, aye; Smith aye. The motion carried, 6–0, with one member absent.

Trustee Smith declared the regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Smith
President

Daniel R. Russo
Secretary