

**Bradley Public Library
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting January 15, 2025
Drassler Conference Room**

President Bayer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Trustees Present: Nick Allen, Karen Bayer, Madonna Benoit, Lucson Edme, Brandon Hawkins, Ellie Rorabaugh

Trustees Absent: Liz LaMore

Also Present: Jodie DePatis, Director, Marie Cowden, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Edme made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2024 Regular Board meeting.

Trustee Rorabaugh seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Trustee Edme made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2024 Executive Session. Trustee Rorabaugh seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF VENDOR PAYMENTS:

Trustee Rorabaugh made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and to accept vendor payments in the amount of \$57,956.97 for the month of November 2024. Trustee Edme seconded and motion carried by roll call of 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Trustee Bayer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and to accept vendor payments in the amount of \$31,287.38 for the month of December 2024. Trustee Benoit seconded and motion carried by roll call of 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

(Statistical Reports Attached)

Director DePatis stated the following:

- **Programs:** The "Cozy Up and Read" winter reading program began December 16 and runs through January 2025. Friends of the Library sponsored the Strings in the Stacks program on December 13th, with 87 attendees and Santa visited on December 14th for free pictures with cookies and craft also sponsored by the Friends. Despite a number of events throughout the community on the same day, we still had approximately 140 people attend. The Winter mobile pantry was held Tuesday, December 17th from 5-6:30pm and served 97 families. Our next mobile pantry is set for March 26, 2025 during spring break. Tax forms are starting to arrive. An all-ages Cabin Fever program is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22 from 1:30-5:30pm and will feature games and crafts. Catholic Charities will be hosting 2 new weekly programs for seniors here including Wits Workout on Friday mornings. We are also adding Movie Matinee and Watercolor Wednesdays to our lineup. We are now collecting prom dresses for our 7th annual Say Yes to the Prom Dress event scheduled for March 29 & 30 and April 5. Times TBA in early March. The 2025 Summer Reading Program theme will be Level Up at Your Library.
- **Legal:** Legal ads for the FY2023-24 audit availability and 2025 meeting dates were published in the Daily Journal in December. The FY2023-24 Annual Receipts and Disbursements report was filed with the Kankakee County Clerk. The annual Illinois State Library certification has been completed.
- **Grants:** For the 2025 PNG grant, the first Cooking Lab session and CSI program portion have been completed. The hydroponics were harvested with 30 bags of leafy greens given away to the public after the Cooking Lab class sampled what was grown. The next sessions are starting in January

including a second Cooking Lab session and Code Breakers, which is a program where the participants help create an escape room. We also received \$5,812.40 for FY22023-24 erate discount reimbursement.

- **Building:** A sensor in the Weakley youth services craft room went out in early December. KPI replaced the sensor and some emergency exit lights in the Drassler room.
- **Continuing Education:** Director DePatis completed 2 HR Source webinars: FLSA and Pay Transparency in 2025 and Employment Law Update. Youth Services Assistant Dee Vent completed an 8 week “Youth Services 101” class through the University of Wisconsin iSchool Continuing Education department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Survey Committee:** The survey committee members Lucson Edme, Ellie Rorabaugh, and Madonna Benoit distributed report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2025 Consolidated Election:** Director DePatis stated that the Certificate of Ballot was turned in for the April 1, 2025 election. Trustee Rorabaugh submitted completed paperwork.
- **Statement of Economic Interest:** Trustee Bayer informed Trustees that they will be receiving an email in March instructing them to fill out Statement of Economic Interest.
- **Secretary’s Review of Closed Meeting Minutes:** Trustee Benoit made a motion to keep closed meeting minutes closed. Trustee Rorabaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- **Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office:** At 6:23 p.m. Trustee Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the selection of a person to fill a public office and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. Trustee Benoit seconded the motion and motion carried by unanimous vote. At 7:04 p.m. President Bayer declared Executive session concluded and meeting returned to open session.

Trustee Bayer made a motion to appoint Jessica Trudeau to fill the Trustee vacancy due to the resignation of Trustee LaMore. Trustee Edme seconded the motion and motion carried by unanimous vote.

Trustee Bayer made a motion to create a “Team Building Committee” with a name change to be determined. Trustee Rorabaugh seconded and motion carried by unanimous vote.

Trustee Allen made a motion to rehire Director DePatis and give her a 3% raise retroactive to October 2024.

Trustee Allen seconded and motion carried by roll call of 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Discussion ensued of Trustee Hawkins to run as write-in candidate Trustee for April election.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you from staff for recognition bonuses.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:13 p.m. Trustee Hawkins made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Benoit seconded and motion carried by unanimous vote.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madonna Benoit
Secretary

Marie Cowden
Recording Secretary