

**Board of Trustees of the Peter White Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Peter White Public Library was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 in the Community Room of the Peter White Public Library. The meeting was called to order by President Anne Donohue at 5:02PM.

Members Present: Anne Donohue, President; Suzanne Williams, Member; Carol Steinhaus, Member; Lori Nelson, Member. Excused: Steve Schmunk, Secretary.

Library Staff Present: Andrea Ingmire, Library Director; Bruce MacDonald, Assistant Director/IT Head; Heather Steltenpohl, Development Director; Ann Richmond Garrett, Administrative Assistant; Jamie Goodwin, Finance Director; Sarah Rehborg, Youth Services Department Head; Amy Salminen, Adult Services Department Head.

TAC Representatives Present: Peggy Jensen, West Branch Township.

Others present (online): Members of the public.

The Agenda was approved on a motion by Steinhaus and seconded by Nelson. The motion is approved 4-0.

The Minutes of the April 18, 2023 Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Steinhaus and seconded by Williams. The motion is approved 4-0.

Election of Officers: Anne Donohue presented a slate of Board Members, Steve Schmunk to remain as Secretary, and Anne Donohue as president. Donohue called for any members to volunteer for these positions if interested, none came forward. The election of officers was approved on a motion by Nelson and seconded by Steinhaus. The motion is approved 4-0.

Special Presentation – Amy Salminen, Adult Services. Salminen gave a presentation on services (both online and in person) offered by the Reference Desk. She also spoke about job duties of the Reference Desk employees, and the duties of the Adult Services Librarian.

TAC Report: Peggy Jensen, West Branch Township. West Branch is in the process of updating their community master plan; an open meeting was held on 5-22-2023 to discuss land use.

Financial Reports – including Approval of the Bills: Goodwin addressed questions and comments related to the bills and financial reports. The budget hearing with the city is upcoming in July. Williams addressed a date typo in the Carroll Paul Trust Fund section, Goodwin will correct. A motion was brought by Steinhaus and seconded by Nelson to approve the bills for April 2023, in the amount of \$208,220.98. The motion is approved 4-0.

Public Comment:

- Christie Wagner spoke in favor of keeping *This Book Is Gay* in our collection.
- Joe Lavey spoke about censorship and free speech.

- Linda Byers-Blaksmith spoke about censorship and the individual's right for access to information, and retaining the book in the section.
- P. David Allen spoke in opposition of book banning.
- Priscilla Burnham presented a statement on behalf of Marquette County League of Women Voters, State League on the duties of libraries and access to information.
- Lilith Muraro spoke on the educational merits of *This Book is Gay*.
- Sarah Santiago spoke in opposition of book banning and the right to access information.
- A community member spoke in support of the library and intellectual freedom.
- Maria Gunson spoke about the importance of access to sex education.
- Sophie Riley presented statistics on mental health and queer youth, in favor of keeping *This Book is Gay* in the collection.
- Missy Seamen spoke about the importance of youth access to library programs and books that represent them.
- Rose Sterna spoke in opposition to banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Samantha Elder spoke in opposition to banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Joe Meyskens spoke about protecting democracy and the importance of the freedom to share ideas.
- Hannah Harriman, a nurse in Family Planning, spoke on the value of sex education.
- Miranda Miller spoke about the importance of building inclusive classrooms and representation, for students.
- Peter Zenti shared their story and shared pieces from *The Principal's Desk*, in opposition of removing *This Book is Gay*.
- Joanna Worley spoke about the importance of retaining literature of all kinds in library collections.
- Mary Schneeberger, a past Teen Services Coordinator, spoke about the personal value of being open to literature of all kinds.
- Savannah Struble spoke in opposition of banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Hava Thiele spoke in opposition of banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Donavon Young spoke in opposition of banning *This Book is Gay* or any other book.
- Sunny spoke in to the value of sex education for young people, in opposition of banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Holly Stark spoke in opposition of book banning and its effect on culture.
- Anne Stark spoke in support of those who stand in opposition to banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Kelly Sassi provided print copies of the Statement on Academic Freedom, for Board Members, from the National Council of Teachers of English.
- Kristy Green shared a story on behalf of a friend that spoke to the importance of access to queer literature for youth.
- Astor Michelsen spoke on the importance of libraries as safe spaces for young people.
- Tammy Wills spoke to the importance of an inclusive society.
- Melinda Britton shared her personal story and in spoke in opposition of banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Jaime Vanenkevort spoke in support of those in opposition of banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Jon Barch directly addressed the statements made by the individual making the Request for Reconsideration.
- Jeaneen Rastall spoke to the importance of access to information for parents of queer youth.
- A community member spoke to the importance of sex education for LGBTQ youth and in opposition to banning *This Book is Gay*.
- Bob Mann spoke in opposition of banning any book, regardless of personal political beliefs.

Board Action Items:

a) Request for Reconsideration- “This Book is Gay” by Juno Dawson.

Ingmire reviewed timeline of current request. A statement was read on behalf of Steve Schmunk, in opposition of removing This Book is Gay. Anne Donohue shared her experiences with censorship, and in opposition of restricting or removing access to any type of literature. Carol Steinhaus spoke in opposition of banning any book, the importance of freedom of speech, and the duty of the Board to represent the wishes of the community. Suzanne Williams thanked the public for sharing their comments, in opposition of banning the book, and in putting decisions involving books in the hands of the library staff. Lori Nelson thanked the public for sharing their comments, and spoke in opposition of banning any book. On a motion by Nelson and seconded by Steinhaus. The Board of Trustees of the Peter White Public Library moves to uphold the decision of the Request for Reconsideration Committee and retain the item, “This Book is Gay” by Juno Dawson. **The motion is approved 4-0.**

b) Amended Budget – a typo was included in the last budget, an Amended Budget has been presented. On a motion by Nelson and seconded by Steinhaus, The Board of Trustees of the Peter White Public Library moves to approve the FY22-23 Budget Adjustments as presented. **The motion is approved 4-0.**

c) Policies for Approval – the Remote Work Policy has been set apart from the retired pandemic related policies, and the Emergency Response Policy has been reworded and clarified. On a motion by Steinhaus and seconded by Williams. The Board of Trustees of the Peter White Public Library moves to approve the GOV –9 Remote Work Policy and GOV – 8 Emergency Response Policy as presented. These policies will become effective on 5/23/2023. **The motion is approved 4-0.**

d) Policy for Review – CIRC-1 Library Card Policy has been updated to meet the needs of guardians who cannot be present when a minor needs to obtain a library card, while also verifying identity of the individual signing up for the card. First reading, no action necessary.

Other Business:

None

Board Member Comment:

- a) **Trustee Manual:** Review of Chapter 9, 2021 Edition.
- b) Board Members reviewed public comment on the Request for Reconsideration

Standing Reports: Bruce MacDonald wrote a letter of support for the UPLink project. Nelson requested clarification of aforementioned other books that have been questioned as to their purpose in our collection.

Adjournment: Steinhaus made motion to adjourn, seconded by Nelson. The motion was approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Donohue

President

Upcoming meetings: June 20, 2023

Upcoming TAC meeting: June 7, 2023