

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 4, 2021
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Notice of the time of the meeting and agenda having been posted on the library bulletin board and one other public place, forty-eight hours prior to the meeting as required by law, the meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Sylvia Haas, President.

2. President Statement Regarding Virtual Meeting

"This meeting of the Board of Library Trustees is held without a quorum of Trustees physically present and is authorized by Governor pursuant to "COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5" (16 March 2020), and 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. Please note that a roll call vote is now required for all motions."

3. Roll Call

Present: Marie Bass, Michael Duebner, Sylvia Fulk, Terri Gens, Brian Gilligan, Sylvia Haas, Kristine O'Sullivan
Absent: None
Staff Present: Jo Broszczak, Su Reynders
Present: There were approximately 31 visitors and staff on the electronic meeting.

4. Audience to Visitors

Five Mount Prospect residents spoke in support of Trustee Gens regarding the situation where she used inappropriate language during a recent candidate forum: Rachel Leiner, Liz LaPlante, Sharon Roberts, Carole Martz, and Peggy Pissarreck.

Director Reynders reported that she received over 20 emails and one phone call the day of the Board meeting in support of Trustee Gens. She read two emails that were representative of the majority, from Mount Prospect residents Ronak McFadden and Shar Jaegers.

Director Reynders read the names of people who submitted emails and phone calls the day of the Board meeting:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Carole Martz | Kristen Worst | Noreen McAndrew |
| Dawn and Bryan Frenzel | Leslie Ponczek | Pam Fehling |
| Ellen Ritzenthaler | Linda Phillips | Peggy Pissarreck |
| Joanne Smith | Liz Fischer | Rachel Leiner |
| Julia Narain | Liz LaPlante | Ronak McFadden |
| Julie Filipic | Mae Dibenedetto | Shar Jaegers |
| Keri Graham | Mary Ann Benden | Tamara Brey |

5. Discuss Trustee Communication

Trustee Gens made a statement apologizing and explaining the context of the situation and referred to the public apology printed in the *Mount Prospect Journal* newspaper.


Trustees all made statements supporting Trustee Gens. The Board recognized that there have been calls for Trustee Gens to resign her position on the Library Board. After having evaluated the totality of the circumstances, the Board accepts Trustee Gens' sincere apology and affirms that Trustees will continually seek improvement to serve the Mount Prospect community.

The Board affirmed that the library categorically condemns the use of disparaging and offensive language and stands in solidarity in the fight against racial injustice and inequality.

The Board requested that spokesperson Trustee Bass write a statement reflecting the Board's comments and work with library staff to post the statement on the library website.

6. Adjournment

Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Terri Gens, Secretary

Approved as submitted 03/18/2021