

# TINLEY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 26, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dami Ajasa  
Brad Daniels  
Leah Herman  
Darren Meyers-Arrived at 6:31 pm  
Gina Miller, Vice-President  
Elizabeth Stern, Secretary  
Laura Hess-Wojcik, President

## **LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT**

Sarah Schroeder, Assistant Director  
Lyn Williams, Business Office Manager  
Jennifer Schulien, Business Office Assistant  
Bob Serafino, Facilities Manager

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Tinley Park Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30 pm.

## **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST/AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Dennis Walsh, Attorney from Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins was present. Trustee Meyers arrived at 6:31 pm, closing the doors and relocating his seat. 43-year Tinley Park resident Karen Kurek shared she was in the library on a previous meeting day and heard disrespectful language coming from the meeting room. She hopes this is not heard again. Trustee Meyers asked her to state her name and asked whether she had attended meetings before. President Hess-Wojcik asked Trustee Meyers to stop interacting with the guests. Trustee Meyers greeted the police officer and directed him to stand elsewhere, which the officer declined. President Hess-Wojcik then asked Trustee Meyers to take his seat. A member of the public named Tyler was in attendance. Caroline Lilly, interested in local politics, was present. She stated she has been attending meetings dating back to October 2024, and that she believes the behavior she has

witnessed from an elected official at the meetings is not how voting constituents should be represented. She shared concerns about belittlement and meetings that do not run smoothly and said the treatment of Board members and staff is not acceptable. Ms. Lilly said she feels a duty to make the public aware of how the meetings are going and she hopes Trustee Meyers decides to be more respectful. Trustee Meyers asked if she had attended meetings before. President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order and told him not to interact with guests. Trustee Meyers said he challenged President Hess-Wojcik's ruling, and repeatedly asked President Hess-Wojcik about Attorney Walsh's presence at the meeting, yelling over President Hess-Wojcik. Assistant Director Schroeder said, "That's enough." Trustee Meyers said, "I'm sorry young lady, you're here to satisfy the director and are staff." President Hess-Wojcik repeatedly ruled Trustee Meyers out of order, while he continued to speak over her.

President Hess-Wojcik motioned for a five-minute recess at 6:35 pm. Vice-President Miller seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: Darren Meyers. Motion carries. Trustee Ajasa motioned for the meeting to resume. Trustee Herman seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: Darren Meyers. Meeting resumed at 6:40 pm.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Meyers motioned to move item 6a correspondence to an Executive session. President Hess-Wojcik asked on what grounds. Trustee Meyers turned to Assistant Director Schroeder and asked why the staff did not add a link to his memo to the agenda. President Hess-Wojcik asked Trustee Meyers to direct his comments to her and explained this was noted as correspondence and all Trustees had received the correspondence.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### Approval of the January 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Trustee Meyers began shouting, "who's the person to your left?" referring to Attorney Walsh, and "point of order!" President Hess-Wojcik said, "Not well-taken." Trustee Meyers repeatedly interrupted discussion, challenging Attorney Walsh's presence and shouting objections despite being ruled out of order.

Trustee Herman motioned to approve the January 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Secretary Stern seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence from Trustee Meyers was noted. Trustee Meyers shouted that he wanted to debate this issue and continued to shout "this gentleman to your left – who is this gentleman? Is he a lawyer? Is he a counselor?" No motion was made.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Approval of the Bills List from 01/13/2025 through 02/03/2025 in the amount of \$1,037,294.13.

Trustee Herman motioned to approve the Bills List for the dates and amounts as follows: January 13, 2025 through February 3, 2025 in the dollar amount of \$1,037,294.13. Vice-President Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Darren Meyers, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Director's Report.

The Director's Report was noted.

Assistant Director's Report.

The Assistant Director's report was noted.

Strategic Plan FY2025, Q3 Report.

Trustee Meyers repeatedly directed his comments towards staff after President Hess-Wojcik said to direct things to her. He asked that staff add changes in underlined, strike through format from quarter to quarter. He asked staff if they understood his request. President Hess-Wojcik will take this under advisement.

January 2025 Statistics.

Trustee Meyers said these were "horrible statistics. Don't you agree?" President Hess-Wojcik said she did not and asked why he thought that and he said because he did.

Orland Hills Board Meeting.

No report. They will meet next month.

Staff Updates.

No report.

Building and Grounds.

Assistant Director Schroeder shared the patron elevator had been out of service. A clutch was replaced. A smoke detector was replaced in the staff elevator. The phone lines were down due to an issue with the construction on 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue but everything is up and running now. Facilities Manager Serafino shared the renovation is going well. The elevator inspection pressure test which was scheduled for September of 2024 will be done in May due to inspector shortages.

Phase 1 Building Renovation Updates.

Treasurer Daniels asked if Phase 1 of the renovation was almost done. Assistant Director Schroeder shared it is. President Hess-Wojcik asked if the renovation is going well. Assistant Director Schroeder said it is going phenomenally. Trustee Herman shared that the staff upstairs is doing a really great job and being flexible. Trustee Meyers asked why a budget increase is needed for SMC. President Hess-Wojcik said that would be discussed later in the agenda. He said “Understood, but I’m asking staff right now. Am I not being clear? Would you like to ask her, or would you like me to ask her?” President Hess-Wojcik shared there is a resolution for this item later in the meeting and moved on, while Trustee Meyers continued to talk about Attorney Walsh not being under contract.

#### Prairie Garden & Story Walk Project Updates.

Assistant Director Schroeder shared they anticipate an MWRD update on March 3, 2025. Native plants will be added to the buffer area. There were a few clerical discrepancies to be corrected but those have been submitted and the update should be coming this next week. Trustee Meyers said, “So we’re planting a few plants, and it looks like our Site Design people misjudged the acreage. Is that right, staff?” President Hess-Wojcik said she did not understand his question. Trustee Meyers said he explained himself and asked if the secretary should repeat it for her. Attorney Walsh attempted to speak, and Trustee Meyers said “I’m sorry, the lawyer doesn’t understand the question. And he’s not under contract with this library, so shut up.” President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order. There was a lot of yelling with Trustee Meyers increasing the volume of his voice. Assistant Director Schoeder asked that they motion to end discussion. President Hess-Wojcik motioned to end discussion on this matter. Trustee Ajasa seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Motion carried.

#### Youth Advisory Council Report

No report.

#### Friends of the Library Report.

No report.

#### Departmental Report.

The report was noted.

#### Program Publicity Report.

The report was noted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to Censure Trustee Meyers for Persistent Violation of the Rules, Insulting Remarks, and Disorderly Conduct at the January 22, 2025 Board Meeting.

President Hess-Wojcik ceded the Chair to Vice President Miller. President Hess-Wojcik motioned to censure Trustee Meyers for persistent violation of the rules, insulting remarks, and disorderly conduct at the January 22, 2025 Board Meeting. Trustee Herman seconded. Trustee Meyers asked to move this to an executive session as a point of order to not discuss personal information about a board member. President Hess-Wojcik shared it was not a proper topic for an executive session because Trustee Meyers is not an employee. Trustee Meyers asked if President Hess-Wojcik or staff members consulted legal representation in crafting the censure. Trustee Meyers reminded the Board of Article 6 of the Powers of the Board, which the Board recently changed, that the powers of the Board are as a collective and not any individual member. He also stated he would be filing a complaint with the Illinois Library Association against President Hess-Wojcik, Director Musil and the Board “that voted in a non-participant,” referring to Attorney Walsh. Treasurer Daniels asked “what did we vote in? So we voted him in?” Trustee Meyers said, “Brad, my buddy Brad!” and asked how Treasurer Daniels felt about the censure. Treasurer Daniels said he would find out when they vote. Trustee Meyers said Treasurer Daniels was fearful of being litigiously liable and when Treasurer Daniels said he had no comments, Trustee Meyers called him “spineless.” He then called Trustee Herman a gym teacher which she said she was not. President Hess-Wojcik called for a Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: None. Abstention: Darren Meyers. Motion carried.

President Hess-Wojcik read the Censure of Trustee Meyers aloud into the record. Trustee Meyers left the meeting at 6:56 pm and returned to the room at 6:58 pm. After the censure was read, Trustee Meyers said he would be here until 2027.

Motion to Censure Board President Hess-Wojcik for Persistent Violation of the Rules, Unfounded Declarations of Decorum, or “Order” as in Robert’s Rules at the January 22, 2025 Board Meeting.

President Hess-Wojcik asked for a motion or second for this item. Trustee Meyers began to read the censure aloud. President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order. President Hess-Wojcik asked for a second. None was given and the motion died.

Motion to establish a Committee of Three Trustees to Facilitate the Director’s Annual Evaluation Process. All Trustees Will Have the Opportunity to Complete an Evaluation Form, and the Committee Will Consolidate the Feedback for Discussion in an Executive Session.

President Hess-Wojcik motioned to establish a committee to facilitate the Director’s Annual Evaluation Process. Treasurer Daniels seconded. President Hess-Wojcik explained the committee would not be writing the evaluation, just compiling the feedback. The decisions would still be made as a group. Trustee Meyers said under the bylaws on committees, a committee cannot be established without a narrative proposal. He asked for time to consult his notes. Trustee Meyers read Article 5 section 5.1 out to the Board. He stated that as Past-President he would be added to the committee, as well as President Hess-Wojcik, and she could pick one

other person. He then said, “But guess what? You haven’t submitted a narrative proposal. Attorney Walsh conferred with President Hess-Wojcik and clarified the bylaws say a narrative proposal “may” be requested. Trustee Meyers yelled not to be interrupted and said, “Mr. Lawyer, you aren’t a participant, you’re not under contract, so shut the f- up, dude.” Attorney Walsh said he did not think he would. More yelling continued, with Trustee Meyers continuing to shout at President Hess-Wojcik, calling her a hypocrite and a liar. President Hess-Wojcik asked for a motion to end debate. Trustee Herman motioned to end the debate. Trustee Ajasa seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Motion carried. Trustee Meyers continued speaking, saying “I’m going to be here until 2027. Get used to it.”

Discussion and Consideration of Approving the Purchase of Human Capital Management Software.

Assistant Director Schroeder shared that the library is looking to purchase software to help with Human Capital Management. This has been budgeted for in the 2026 fiscal year. We would be invoiced in May but are looking to begin contract negotiations now so the software would be fully operational with the beginning of the fiscal year. Assistant Director Schroeder shared that staff investigated three different software providers and noted that while many government entities use these types of software platforms for payroll, the Library would solely be using the software to streamline HR processes that are currently done manually. Trustee Meyers asked that Assistant Director Schroeder give the presentation staff had prepared. Trustee Meyers interrupted the presentation, saying “You indicated that it would eliminate manual paperwork and there’s a risk for misplaced documents. Who does the paperwork manually now?” Assistant Director Schroeder shared this is handled in our Business Office. Trustee Meyers continued to ask Assistant Director Schroeder, “who in the Business Office?” President Hess-Wojcik asked Trustee Meyers why he was asking for names. Assistant Director Schroeder said, “The staff are committed to participating in these meetings with respect and professionalism and dignity, and we expect those same basic courtesies to be afforded to us in return.” She asked if there were any other questions. Trustee Meyers said “You can’t take questions? Like you can’t take criticisms of your job performance?” Assistant Director Schroeder said, “I don’t report to you,” and he responded dismissively, implying that she does report to him. President Hess-Wojcik ruled Trustee Meyers out of order and said he was being disrespectful. Trustee Meyers said he challenged her ruling, but no other Trustees seconded. He continued to shout about Attorney Walsh. President Hess-Wojcik motioned to end debate on this topic. Trustee Herman seconded. Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: Darren Meyers. Motion carried.

Dami Ajasa motioned to pursue contract negotiations with Paycor for the purchase of Human Capital Management Software. Treasurer Daniels seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: Darren Meyers. Motion carried.

Motion to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order Involving an Increase in Contract Price of \$25,000.00 or More in Regard to the Tinley Park Public Library Contract with SMC Construction Services, Inc.

Assistant Director Schroeder explained this is a request to the Board to ask for a change order to replace the existing ceiling tile in areas on the second floor that are not part of the areas being remodeled. If the tiles are replaced now, it would be much more cost effective than waiting until a later date. Assistant Director Schroeder stated that the total cost was \$31,700 and would be added to the existing contract with Integrated Specialty contractors, originally approved in the amount of \$148,576. The expense would be deducted from the contract allowance and project contingency fund, which have balances of \$5,000 and \$330,405, respectively. Trustee Meyers asked if it was the texture or color that needed to match. Assistant Director Schroeder clarified it is an aesthetic change, nothing structural. Trustee Meyers cannot see paying \$35,000 to make everything match. Treasurer Daniels stated as a taxpayer he would be upset that if there is a \$6,000,000 renovation being done that the tiles would not match. Trustees Herman and Ajasa agreed. Treasurer Daniels motioned to adopt a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order Involving an Increase in Contract Price of \$25,000.00 or more in Regard to the Tinley Park Public Library Contract with SMC Construction Services. Trustee Herman seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dami Ajasa, Brad Daniels, Leah Herman, Gina Miller, Elizabeth Stern, Laura Hess-Wojcik. Nays: Darren Meyers. Motion carried.

Discussion of Accounting Services.

Assistant Director Schroeder explained the history of the accounting services with the Village and that we share a good relationship with them. Trustee Meyers interrupted Assistant Director Schroeder, asking why she did not cite the Illinois Local Library Act as amended, and added "Great reporting, Sarah," in a sarcastic tone. President Hess-Wojcik told Assistant Director Schroeder to keep going. Library Administration evaluated a few options for accounting services. The first option is a proposed full-time Village hire, who would split their time between the Village's accounting needs and the Library's accounting needs. Another would be hiring an internal accountant here at 30 hours a week which would equal what the Village currently does for us. Trustee Meyers said our current Village hire, according to the Director's reporting, only works 14 hours per week and asked why Administration estimated 30 hours per week. Treasurer Daniels clarified that the Village is currently performing approximately 50 hours per week if they are doing 216.75 hours of work per month. Trustee Meyers interjected and said the two options are "apples to oranges comparison." Trustee Meyers motioned to table this item to next month so "they can clean up their shit and make an apples-to-apples comparison." President Hess-Wojcik said Trustee Meyers could make a motion without using that kind of language. Trustee Meyers said he has already been reprimanded so what can he do worse and that he's "hanging here until 2027, so how about you doing that, Gal?" President Hess-Wojcik asked if there was a second. There was none. Trustee Meyers then said, referring to Trustees Herman,

Miller, and Ajasa, “Wow, if the gym teacher, the insurance agent, and the nurse don’t want to do this? What a terrible report from staff.” The motion died.

#### Discussion of Content on Future Monthly Financial Reports.

President Hess-Wojcik shared there is a new system now in place and this is a request for Board members to think about what they would like to see in the financial reports going forward. Assistant Director Schroeder stated this does not need to be answered tonight. President Hess-Wojcik asked if it would be possible for the item descriptions to not be cut off. Treasurer Daniels asked for the bills list to end at the end of the month to align with the financial reports, so that it’s easy to make a month-to-month comparison. Trustee Meyers said this is because the Village does things this way. He also asked in response to the accounting memo whether the library would be able to make this change because it would affect the decision of an accounting hire in the future and that they haven’t been able to make the changes in the past.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No report.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Meyers again motioned to have the correspondence he sent to the Board discussed in Executive Session. He stated he wanted a special meeting held. President Hess-Wojcik stated this was not a valid item for an Executive Session. Trustee Meyers motioned to go into an Executive Session to discuss his memo without legal representation present. There was no second. Motion died. Trustee Meyers called the Board ignorant.

### **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Dami Ajasa- No comment.

Brad Daniels-No comment.

Leah Herman- Trustee Herman gave her thanks to Assistant Director Schroeder, Business Office Manager Lyn Williams, and Business Office Assistant Jennifer Schulien and all of the staff for all they do for the library.

Darren Meyers-Trustee Meyers said he loves the staff at the library, especially when he was president. He continued to read his memo aloud while making remarks about other Board members and staff. At this time Treasurer Daniels motioned to adjourn the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Daniels motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm. President Hess-Wojcik seconded. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion carried.



Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary

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President