

The Round Lake Area Library is subject to the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact the library at 546-7060 (Voice) or 546-7064 (TDD/TT) promptly to allow the library to make reasonable accommodation. The library is located at 906 Hart Road in Round Lake, IL

ROUND LAKE AREA LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Committee of the Whole
Meeting Agenda
Activity Room
November 8, 2023 – 6:45 p.m.

Anyone interested in remotely attending this meeting should contact the library at least 24 hours before the meeting.

All matters on the agenda may be discussed, amended, and acted upon, regardless of placement.

1. Call to Order

President Anne Richmond called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Melanie Francisco	P	Sherry Perkowitz	P
Brittany Kearby	P	Anne Richmond	P
Kathy Oetker	P, virtual	Karolyn Wessel	P, virtual
Ana Perez	P		
Jim DiDonato, Executive Director	P		
Marina Stevens, Assistant Director	P		
Alisha Smaby, Head of Circulation	P		

3. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Brittany Kearby made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Karolyn Wessel seconded. All Trustees present (Melanie Francisco, Brittany Kearby, Kathy Oetker, Ana Perez, Sherry Perkowitz, Anne Richmond, and Karolyn Wessel) voted aye. Motion carried.

5. Public Introductions and Comments

The public is invited to provide comments at the beginning of each meeting. Any person or group wishing to speak is requested to sign in prior to the meeting, indicating the issue that they are addressing. The time for comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Please note that the Board will listen to the comments but may not take official action during this meeting. However, a member of the Board may give direction to staff following a presentation.

There were no public attendees or comments.

6. Presentations

There were no presentations.

7. Communications

There were no communications.

8. Discussion Items

A. Review of Super User Party

The board discussed the Super User Party hosted by the Library on November 4, 2023. The event seemed to be well-received, especially the mugs and shirts. Board members noted that while many patrons seemed to be on board with a new library building, the increase in taxes could be a problem. It was suggested that using a practical comparison, such as the number of Starbucks coffees per day, may be better received than using a flat dollar amount. The comparison would need to be general enough to apply to all demographics. Other suggestions included focusing on using personal stories of impact collected from patrons and calculating how much money the Library has saved individuals over time.

A question was raised regarding the accuracy of the median home value used to calculate the estimated tax increase, but since this number was provided by a professional it was decided to not make any changes at this time. Jim will contact Andrew Kim from PMA Securities to ask for more explanation on the median home value.

There was additional discussion regarding school and library district lines, communities within our district, and the potential for those communities to be favorable toward a referendum. During the Super User Party, one of the teachers from the Big Hollow School District indicated we may reach out to them for assistance. Information sessions with Round Lake Area School District 116 are another possibility to explore, but dates should be locked in soon.

Trustees noted they received some feedback from patrons that the design of the new building is too plain and resembled a high school. While the original design was intended to blend in with the school and village buildings, the Board discussed ways to beautify the building such as asking local artists to paint a mural. This would also help get the community directly involved and excited about the project.

Final notes on the Super User Party included the suggestion to keep a record of the questions asked by patrons and to locate a microphone before the next information session since some of the questions were difficult to hear.

Thank you to Marina for coordinating the Super User Party and to all the staff who helped before, during, and after the event.

B. Architect Design Schematics

Trustees discussed the current design plans for the new building. It was suggested to include a book nook or quiet reading area under the public stairs. There was also a concern raised that having Adult Services on the second floor may be difficult for adults with mobility issues, though it was noted that elevators would be easily accessible from either floor.

C. Tax Impact of Referendum

Tax impact was discussed previously during the Super User Party review.

D. Information Campaign

Jim reviewed the planned marketing campaign. The winter newsletter, which will announce the referendum, is in the final stages and should go to the printer within the next week. Jim will email a copy to Trustees. Residents should receive the newsletter by November 18, the date program registration opens.

The estimate from Joe Huberty of Engberg-Anderson Architectural Services, a schematic narrative, a copy of the capital needs assessment, and the space needs assessment will be shared online for patrons to view. A Frequently Asked Questions document will also be included and will need to be updated every couple of weeks to stay current. Trustees also discussed including a timeline dating back to 2012 or earlier to demonstrate where the library started, how it has grown, and where we are now.

E. Information Literature Development

Jim asked Trustees to consider what documents we may still need to include to share with the public, such as aerial views and district maps. Sandra is still working to collect stories of impact. Comments from the 2016 and 2022 community surveys will also be reviewed. It was suggested that the RAILS grant for "My Library is..." may be a possibility to explore. Trustees may also review ideas for creating or redesigning a Friends of the Library donation box on Pinterest.

F. Job Assignments for Trustees

Trustees need to review the information being shared with the public to see if there are any documents that should be added. Trustees also need to begin campaigning with the public, keeping in mind electioneering laws which require official library status to be kept separate from personal opinions. Jim will call Jerry Dietz, Library Attorney, to see if he can clarify what Trustees are allowed to do and possibly provide training or a cheat sheet.

Plans are in place to form a political action committee called People for the Round Lake Library, which would be completely separate from the Library itself. Trustees need to work on recruitment for the committee, such as frequent voters and Super Users from the party on November 4. Karolyn Wessel may be available to lead the committee, with assistance from other Trustees in regards to recruiting members. Anne Richmond will

reach out to Jeanne Kearby and Carolina Schottland, who were suggested as possible members. Anne Richmond and Karolyn Wessel will connect later to discuss finding more people for the committee. All Trustees should be thinking of anyone they know in the community who may be interested in getting involved.

9. General Good and Welfare

10. Adjournment

President Anne Richmond adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Name: _____ Date: _____
Alisha Smaby, Recording Secretary

Name: _____ Date: _____
Karolyn Wessel
Secretary, Library Board of Trustees