

Bellwood Public Library

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Board Meeting Minutes February 25, 2016

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bellwood Public Library was called to order at 11:28 pm by Mrs. Clements, President, in the Large Meeting Room.

Present:

Ms. Carr
Mrs. Clements
Mr. Elliott
Ms. Greene
Mrs. Smith

Absent: Pastor Horton and Ms. Tharpe

Also in attendance: Jacqueline Spratt, Director of the Bellwood Public Library, Ashley Matthews, Business Manager/Administrative Assistant, and 34 people in the audience

Public Comment: Wanda Gibson submitted her public comment in writing and gave a copy to all of the board members. Mrs. Gibson's public comment included questions and concerns about the rise in the budget amounts for meetings and transportation, the board's reimbursements for travel expenses, the number of board members attending conferences, the outdated library by-laws, and the insurance policy for the library.

Pastor Horton arrived at 11:29 a.m.

Linda Dupree was concerned about the increase of the board's expenditures for the conferences and meetings they attend. On behalf of herself and the library staff, Mrs. Dupree wanted to know why the library staff did not receive raises for the 2016 fiscal year.

Tai Lauren was troubled by the progress of the Bellwood Public Library compared to surrounding neighborhoods, and she asked the board not let the library end up like the other neighborhoods that allowed their communities to decline.

Deborah Giles asked why all of the guest that attended the board meeting did not sign in. Mrs. Giles also wanted to know about the status of the library insurance policy and the vacant part-time Reference Librarian position.

The members of the community that attended the meeting wanted to know when the board will respond to the public comments that were made in this meeting and previous meetings.

Ms. Greene stated that the questions will be answer at the next board meeting on March 9th, 2016 or a future date. Mrs. Clements added that the public comment portion of the meeting is for the community to make comments, and it is not a question and answer session.

Pastor Horton stated he had taken off work and rearranged his schedule to attend this special meeting because he was under the impression that it was an important meeting. Pastor Horton was not clear as to who call the meeting or the purpose of this meeting. Also, he stated that the board should let the community express their concerns, but it should be done in an orderly and respectful fashion.

Mrs. Smith wanted to know what was the purpose of the special meeting and why was it scheduled at 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Smith also asked Ms. Greene if she took off work for to attend the meeting. Ms. Greene stated that what she does with her time has nothing to do with the library and Mrs. Smith was out of order to ask her about her personal time because it was none of her business. Ms. Greene later stated that she is on her lunch break.

A motion was made by Ms. Greene, seconded by Mr. Elliott that the Board convenes into Closed Session under Section (C) (1) of the Open Meetings Act for the discussion of appointments, employment, compensation, discipline performance or dismissal of personnel at 11:46 a.m. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Carr, Mrs. Clements, Ms. Greene, Mr. Elliott, Pastor Horton, Mrs. Smith

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1: Ms. Tharpe

The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Ms. Carr to reconvenes to regular session at 1:15 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Carr, Mrs. Clements, Ms. Greene, Mr. Elliott, Pastor Horton, Mrs. Smith

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1: Ms. Tharpe

The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Carr, seconded by Mr. Elliott to approve the action as discussed in closed session.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 5: Ms. Carr, Mrs. Clements, Mr. Elliott, Pastor Horton, Mrs. Smith

NAYS: 1: Ms. Greene

ABSENT: 1: Ms. Tharpe

The motion was carried by majority vote.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mrs. Clements to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m. A roll call was taken. All Ayes. The meeting was adjourned. Voice vote: All Ayes.

Ashley Matthews, Business Manager/ Administrative Assistant