

The Working Men's Institute Board of Trustees met on January 18, 2024.

The Board of Finance meeting was called to order by President Fred Frayser. The purpose of this meeting was to elect officers for the Board, establish a depository, and set the day and time of the monthly Board of Trustees meeting. Nathan Maudlin proposed a motion to keep the officers the same as the Board of Trustees, while also maintaining our current depository and meeting time. (5/3 Bank and 4:45 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month.) Connie Weinzapfel seconded. Approved.

The Board of Finance meeting was then adjourned.

President Fred Frayser called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were President Fred Frayser, Vice President Nathan Maudlin, Treasurer Tamara Allison, Trustee Connie Weinzapfel, Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, Friends of the WMI President Jeanne Maudlin, and Barb McConnell.

Minutes of the December 21, 2023 meeting had been sent electronically. Connie Weinzapfel made the motion to amend the minutes as presented. Tamara Allison seconded. Approved.

Tamara Allison then presented the Treasurer's Report. Nathan Maudlin moved to accept and hold for audit. Connie Weinzapfel seconded. Approved. Nathan Maudlin made the motion to re-designate the roof restoration account to the Auxiliary Account. Tamara Allison seconded. Approved.

#### **FWMI-**

- The brochures for the 2024 FWMI lecture series have been sent out.
- Interpretive signage for the Trench Mortar was discussed as a future project.

#### **In Old Business-**

- Library Furniture- Barb McConnell and Connie Weinzapfel visited Alles Bros. Furniture in Mt. Vernon to select a new sofa and chairs for the library. Tamara Allison moved that we order the suggested loveseat and two chairs as presented from Alles Bros. Furniture. The total cost is within the budgeted amount for Furniture & Equipment. Nathan Maudlin seconded. Approved.
- Website- We are continuing to collaborate with Allen Howie from ideology.biz. The new website has undergone further upgrades, resulting in a more welcoming environment. It was suggested that we incorporate more diversity into the video footage by featuring young adults as well as children in the provided clips. Parental consent to use photographs and videos will be needed for children under the age of 18. Ryan will contact Mr. Howie about possibly shooting some more footage next Thursday, January 25, 2024 during Kiwanis Story Time and Yoga with Patty Beagle.
- STEM-Ryan has been working hard to get all the material for the STEM area. Our first STEM Story time event will be March 7, 2024 with a possible grand opening/dedication

ceremony on March 2 or 3. Jean Kares has agreed to assist with the STEM Story time. We will also have a Meet a STEM Career the second Thursday of each month.

- Investment Property-Tamara Allison made the motion that the Board of Trustees allow President Fred Frayser to make an offer on the available lot at West and Steammill Streets for up to \$50,000. If accepted, the funds will be taken from the appropriate investment accounts per the advice of Robert Bernardin. Nathan Maudlin seconded. Approved.

### **In New Business-**

- Ryan gave a report on Senate Bill 32, which has been authored by Sens. Jim Tomes and Gary Byrne. If passed, the bill would:
  1. Eliminate the authority of public libraries to impose an ad valorem property tax
  2. Require libraries to submit their annual budgets to a county or municipal body for approval
  3. Require said county or municipal body to provide the funding for the operation of the library
  4. Prohibit libraries from providing a service that is "not a core public function of the library" unless specifically listed as a line item of the budget.

Ryan also read the official statement of the Indiana Library Federation, which opposes the bill. He will keep the Board up to date with the status of this bill as information becomes available.

- Trustee Liability-The WMI has been incorporated since March 25, 2010. Our Articles of Incorporation are perpetual, so they do not have to be renewed.
- Archive Expansion- Ryan and Melora have been working on breaking down how much space is needed for expansion. We have concluded that more room is needed for the rolled textiles. We need 250 linear feet for rolled textiles. That includes what has been rolled, what needs to be rolled and 50% for future growth. We are now working on framed works. We have contacted the State Museum's curatorial outreach crew, and they will be helping determine how much drawer space is needed for all of our natural history specimens. Once Ryan has compiled all the numbers, he will contact our representative with Patterson Pope.

### **Director's Report (see attached)**

Mr. Rokicki then presented the claims. We have two registers this evening. Finishing up 2023 we have a single claim to Bur Oak Tree Service for the planting of three trees. Nathan made the motion to accept the final claim for 2023. Tamara Allison seconded. Approved. Nathan Maudlin made the motion to accept the current month claims. Connie Weinzapfel seconded. Approved.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Director's Report January 18, 2024

Our "12 Holiday Stories" Facebook event was a success! Peggy Meyer had the most views with 421, Anthony Rideout was second with 215 views, and Diane Sanders was third with 188 views. A big thank you to all of this year's participants.

Kiwanis Story Time took place on Thursday, December 28th at 6 p.m. Shannon read *How to Catch a Snowman* by Adam Wallace. Ten children attended the event. The next Kiwanis Story Time will be on January 25. Ann Rains will be reading her book *Millie's Missing Egg*.

Peggy Taylor's weaving camp began on Wednesday, December 27th, and ran until Friday, December 29th. The classes started each day at 10:30 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m. There were approximately eighteen attendees each day. This grant funded two separate classes. We will be applying for additional funding for future events.

Tamara Allison has started Pre-School Story Time on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. This event is a little different than Peggy Meyers. You must register for this event which will be held on the following dates: January 11,18,25 and February 1,15,22,29.

We have started the Annual Library Report.

Thanks to Gary Barnes and Rod Clark for helping take down the Christmas decorations.

We have started entering submitted events into the Visit New Harmony calendar.

Josh Lamb was here today. Our next project in our lighting upgrades and repairs is the exterior lights.

I will be ordering short sleeved polo shirts with our logo embroidered on them. Please be sure to give me your shirt size before you leave this evening.