ELK GROVE VILLAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
of the
ELK GROVE VILLAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

President Bruce Barnett called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Trustees present: Isela Catania, Lee Maternowski, JoAnn Shafar, Eileen Valentino, Mary Vitale, and Renee Weiland. Also present: Debra Nelson, Library Director and Rick Avalos, Head of Building and Security Services.

The Trustees discussed the design/build option from Morton Buildings for the outdoor storage building. Trustee Barnett stated he liked the idea of breaking the project into separate plans with Morton constructing the building, and the remainder (pavilion and landscaping) going out to bid. Trustees Valentino and Shafar expressed support of this possibility, while Trustee Catania expressed concerns about not bidding the entire project publicly. Trustee Barnett agreed that there might be pushback. Trustee Maternowski questioned what Morton does differently. Trustee Weiland stated that she still has questions, and is bothered that the Library would have to pay $40,000 to Morton before they provide any information. Will the $40,000 be used towards the project if the Library hired them? Trustee Vitale stated she is still absorbing the information to form an opinion. Director Nelson proposed a meeting with Romtec in order to thoroughly research all possibilities. The Trustees agreed that it must be determined whether Morton would result in cost savings; they want to do the right thing but not at the risk of overspending. Trustee Shafar stated there will be no building until there is a focus. Trustee Valentino wants to compare apples to apples: to focus on just the building. How much will the building cost with Morton in order to compare with Romtec? Director Nelson will follow up with more information.

Director Nelson informed the Board regarding changes in personnel, and provided the Board with a job description for the proposed Marketing and Communications Coordinator. The Board's approval of this new position will be on the May 6, 2025 Agenda.

Trustee Valentino shared information about the Elk Grove Township Food Pantry; a discussion about the possibility of a Little Free Pantry inside the Library ensued. Trustees Valentino and Shafar voiced their disapproval to this concept, while Trustees Catania and Vitale expressed their support. Director Nelson explained the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act would protect the Library from liability, and the Friends of the Library are willing to help with managing the pantry. It would be a small shelf with non-perishable items. The decision was left unresolved.

Director Nelson updated the Board about issues with the west condensing unit compressor #1. Midwest Mechanical is submitting a proposal for the work which will be on the May 6, 2025 Agenda for the Board's approval. The condenser will ultimately need to be fully replaced, but this serves as a temporary solution for the time being.

Director Nelson reminded the Trustees to submit their SEI filings and informed them that the Oath of Office for those elected in the April 1 election will be administered at Village Hall on May 27.

Trustee Shafar moved, seconded by Trustee Valentino, that the Board exit the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Maternowski, Secretary