

President Rita Stroempl called to order a meeting of the Avon Lake Public Library Board of Trustees on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Trustees in attendance were: Cheryl Arnold, Holly Moore Kowalski, Steve Lavelle, Rebecca Schaltenbrand, Rita Stroempl and John Williams. Trustee Betsey Bell was absent. Also present were Director Mary Crehore, Fiscal Officer Lorie Scheer, Deputy Fiscal Officer Maureen Minadeo, managers Linda Janesz, Nick Kelley, Dianne Russell, and Sybil Wendling, Assistant Director Gerry Vogel and Public Relations Coordinator Jill Ralston. In the audience were Paul Facinelli of Avon and Phyllis Engelhart of Avon Lake. Lorain County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Gerry Innes arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Paul Facinelli began his public comment to the Board by passing out a 3-page article entitled, "Religion in American Libraries: Questions and Answers" from the American Library Association. Mr. Facinelli introduced himself and advised that he was here to discuss the spine label on our books that have the "white cross and blue background." He noted there were 740 books with this label (Christian) in the adult reading area, and 25 in the Children's section, by 135 authors, and he considered this "an obvious and blatant violation of the First Amendment." He drew attention to two highlighted paragraphs in the ALA article:

"Libraries serve all members of their communities and within their budgetary constraints should address all information concerns of all members – including religious information needs. Collections should reflect those needs by providing access to diverse religious thought without becoming a proponent of any of them.

This practice of applying specific religious symbols to materials – such as using a cross to label Christian fiction – violates the establishment clause of the First Amendment and the Library Bill of Rights."

Mr. Facinelli advised that the number of titles would lead any responsible person to conclude that Avon Lake Public Library is in violation of the First Amendment. He asked that the labels be removed, and that the Library cease from purchasing additional Christian books. He noted that shelf space is finite: 740 books = 60 feet of shelf space.

Rita responded that Mr. Facinelli's concerns would be taken under advisement, and that an executive session would be called at the end of the Board meeting. Mr. Facinelli requested that he be informed of the Board's decision. Rita advised that it may take some time, but that he will be informed. Facinelli and Engelhart left the meeting at this time. Rita added an executive session under New Business, item E.

Cheryl Arnold moved and Steve Lavelle seconded to adopt Resolution #2428-16, approving the minutes of the regular meeting of October 13, 2016.

Call for Vote: All Ayes

Motion Carried

1962-16

The following financial report for September, 2016 was presented and placed on file.

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Receipts MTD	\$ 60,004.41	\$ 243.24
Expense MTD	\$ 199,436.22	\$ 41,991.70
Unexpended Balance	\$1,628,531.54	\$ 627,970.12

**Total Unexpended Balance All Funds \$2,256,501.66**

**Fiscal Officer’s Report:** Lorie noted that the Bank Report with Transfers shows the problem she’s been having with the SSI software, and the \$243 showing in the Building 2 Account was not an actual deposit to that account, but an incorrect posting. The PLF should be at 83 percent, and we are currently at 95 percent. Lorie advised that we spent \$41,991 out of the Building Fund for the lower level carpet.

John Williams moved and Rebecca Schaltenbrand seconded to adopt Resolution #2429-16, approving the Fiscal Officer’s October 2016 report, and monthly financial statements.

2429-16  
Approve Fiscal  
Officer report

Call for Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried

**Gifts:** We received \$300 to the Endowment Fund during October in memory of Elsie Mazzotta, Linda Rakvic’s mother, including \$150 from Eugene Mazzotta for the Fairy Garden window donor roster and \$150 from Carron House Condo Association for a copper leaf on the Donor Tree. We also received \$100 from Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club in appreciation for serving as the venue for their Standard Flower Show in September, for which we added a copper leaf to the Donor Tree. Total gifts for October were \$400.

Steve Lavelle moved and John Williams seconded to adopt Resolution #2430-16, accepting gifts to the Endowment Fund for October, 2016.

2430-16  
Accept Gifts

Call for Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried

**Director’s Report: Director’s Report:** *New York Times* best-selling author Garth Stein will speak at the Library on Monday, April 10, 2017. He is the author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, *Racing in the Rain* (for young adults), and a series of picture books, featuring Enzo, the canine narrator of the other two books. Normally, Stein’s fee is \$15,000, but as we are piggybacking on several other speaking venues, his fee is \$6,000. ALPL Friends has pledged \$2,000; Mary will request at least \$2,000 from the Endowment Fund at the December Board meeting; and Mary and Jill are seeking community sponsorships for the remaining amount.

Pembroke Kids complimented Sybil and her staff on their outreach story times; they hope the program continues in 2017 (it will). Thanks to trustee Cheryl Arnold, Next Generation will be included on the outreach schedule, beginning in January.

Mary summarized a meeting she attended at City Hall, regarding property valuation for NRG and the ramifications it has for the Library, the City, the school system and other entities that benefit from Avon Lake taxes. Since the recession, appeals have been made to

the county's Board of Review and the state's Board of Tax Appeals by NRG, the Lorain County Auditor and the Avon Lake City Schools. NRG wants its valuation reduced from \$54 million to \$9 million (which did occur in 2013 and 2014); the current valuation is \$38 million. A cross-appeal, filed by the school system, will be heard by the Board of Appeals in April 2017. However, NRG wants a payback due to their claim of over-taxation for 2013 and 2014. The cost to the Library is almost \$86,000 for the two years. Since this aspect is considered a done deal, the school system hopes to discuss a payback plan with NRG to mitigate the impact to budgets for everyone concerned.

**Statistics:** October's circulation is down slightly from October 2015, but attendance is up two percent. Beginning with the January 2017 statistical report, Wi-Fi sessions will be listed separately as the State Library of Ohio wants it reported as a separate statistic; and Outreach from Children's, Young Adult, Adult and DiscoveryWorks will be broken out, also. Nick noted that staff and patron Wi-Fi sessions are lumped together in the same count.

**Unfinished Business** - none

### **New Business**

**2017 Temporary Appropriations Budget:** Lorie explained that we increased property tax and PLF revenues to reflect those certified in September by the County Auditor. Line items that Mary and Lorie revised were highlighted on the budget report, including a small bump-up for supplies; an increase for staff development; and an increase for hardware, regarding the possibility of a new server for the CMI financial software. Overall, the General Fund budget increased by about \$16,000.

John Williams moved and Steve Lavelle seconded Resolution #2431-16 approving the Temporary Appropriations Budget at the millennium levels of:

1000/Salaries and Benefits for \$1,882,275

2000/Supplies for \$35,000

3000/Operations/Contracts for \$483,200

4000/Materials for \$300,000

5000/Capital Outlay for \$74,500

7000/8000/Other for \$149,315

for a General Fund total of \$2,924,290 and a \$200,000 appropriation from the Building Fund for a combined total for the two funds of \$3,124,290 as presented by the Fiscal Officer and Director.

1964-16

Roll Call Vote:	All Ayes	Motion Carried
Arnold	AYE	
Bell	Absent	
Kowalski	AYE	
Lavelle	AYE	
Schaltenbrand	AYE	
Stroempl	AYE	
Williams	AYE	

**Meeting room fee:** Our meeting rooms are very popular, primarily in the evenings. Late bookings frequently necessitate the Circulation Services Manager, moving groups to other rooms, dependent on the size of the group. Often, small groups end up in large rooms, and vice versa. A uniform fee of \$10 for both large and small meeting rooms will alleviate over- and under-charging.

2432-16  
Approve  
Meeting Room  
Fee Adjustment

Steve Lavelle moved and John Williams seconded Resolution #2432-16, approving an increase of the single-use fee for the Jean M. Parke and Friends meeting rooms from \$5.00 to \$10.00, effective 1 January 2017.

Roll Call Vote:	All Ayes	Motion Carried
Arnold	AYE	
Bell	Absent	
Kowalski	AYE	
Lavelle	AYE	
Schaltenbrand	AYE	
Stroempl	AYE	
Williams	AYE	

**Young Adult shelving project:** In the spring, Mary and Gerry received a 3-page white paper from the YA librarian who did a very thorough job of laying out her case for additional shelf space in the YA department on the west wall. In mid-October, we met with Rich de Bear from Library Design Associates, Inc. The new shelving will replace the existing shelving on the wall, and the portable wire racks, and increase shelving space by over 80 linear feet. The four new units will be five feet high, maintaining good sight lines; 36-inch aisle space will be maintained. The shelving is on state term contract; the labor, end caps and fabric panels are not. Marty will do the demolition and wall preparation. Work will take place in late January/early February, 2017.

2433-16  
Approve YA  
Shelving

Holly Moore Kowalski moved and John Williams seconded Resolution #2433-16, approving the purchase and installation of new shelving by Library Design Associates, Inc. on the west wall in the Young Adult department, not to exceed \$12,000 from the Building Fund.

Roll Call Vote:	All Ayes	Motion Carried
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Arnold	AYE
Bell	Absent
Kowalski	AYE
Lavelle	AYE
Schaltenbrand	AYE
Stroempl	AYE
Williams	AYE

Rita appointed Steve Lavelle and Rebecca Schaltenbrand to the Nominating Committee for the 2017 Board Officer positions. Both readily accepted.

2434-16  
Approve  
Executive  
Session

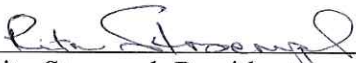
Steve Lavelle moved and Rebecca Schaltenbrand seconded Resolution #2435-16, to convene to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss an imminent court action.

Roll Call Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried

Arnold	AYE
Bell	Absent
Kowalski	AYE
Lavelle	AYE
Schaltenbrand	AYE
Stroempl	AYE
Williams	AYE

The executive session ended at 8:25 p.m. The Board instructed Mary to remove the "Christian" spine labels from that collection of fiction books, and to report back at a later Board meeting about reaction, if any, from the public.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Avon Lake Public Library Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2016. The Board's organizational meeting for 2017 will be held immediately following the regular meeting.

  
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 Rita Stroempl, President

  
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 Rebecca Schaltenbrand, Secretary