

HINSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ad Hoc Board Restructuring Committee Minutes

February 9, 2023

2 p.m.

Present: Julie Liesse, President; John Bloomfield; Trustee

Also Present: Karen Keefe, Executive Director

By Phone: Kim Kiyosaki, Trustee; Megan Mikhail, Trustee; Dick Munson, Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 2:13 p.m.

Julie Liesse reviewed some of the potential advantages of moving to a Committee of the Whole structure:

- it would eliminate the difficulty of scheduling committee meetings with a busy Board
- it would make it easier to have a quorum
- it would decrease the repetition of committee work and discussion at Board meetings
- it would give new trustees an opportunity to learn about the Board without having to immediately fill a committee chair position

Executive Director Keefe told the committee about discussions she had with two library directors who used Committee of the Whole. Both preferred them to a traditional committee structure and would highly recommend.

John Bloomfield said that he liked a “hybrid” approach, where there was still a trustee “point person” for finance, facilities, and policy that the Director could go to. The Board could also appoint a point person for different projects.

Kim Kiyosaki said she loved the ease of scheduling that this option provided.

Megan Mikhail said she saw a lot of efficiencies in this approach. When the recommendation of another committee is presented at a Board meeting, it can feel like there is a lot to catch up on or that the depth of the committee’s discussion doesn’t always come through and something is lost.

Dick Munson agreed that he was initially attracted to the efficiency the Committee of the Whole meetings would provide. He also shared his concern that with topics previously covered by three different committees all on the same agenda, there will be tendency to rush and items won’t get the thorough and they will not be reviewed as thoroughly as they would if discussed by a specific committee. He asked that the committee and Board look at ways to maintain an environment for a “deep dive” on certain items.

Bloomfield agreed that maintaining oversight of issues typically discussed and vetted at the committee level was of paramount importance.



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Mikhail agreed that a loss of specialization would be a consequence of abolishing the standing committees. But she thinks that overall there's a benefit to more eyes and voices in the discussions.

Liesse reminded the committee that eliminating standing committees may impact the nominations for officers that will be coming later this spring. She recommended that the Policy Committee revise the by-laws as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Approved:

