



Board of Trustees Study Session Board Retreat MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00pm
Traverse Connect Economic Development Organization
Blue Room/First Floor
202 E. Grandview Pkwy, Traverse City, MI 49684

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Odgers at 12:10pm. Present were: Odgers (President); Pakieser (Vice President); Sullivan (Treasurer); Wescott (Secretary); Vickery, Deyo, and Jones (Trustees). Also present were: Howard (Director); Michael Stephens (Facilitator); Carpenter, and Barritt (Staff).

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was not recited due to lack of an American flag.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Wescott, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED.

4. **Public Comment**

President Odgers opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

All trustees gave a brief introduction of themselves to assist the facilitator in conducting the retreat.

5. **Presentation: "Wholehearted Library" – Michael Stephens, Facilitator**

Stephens stated that libraries are palaces of the people. Palaces where people experience, are empowered, can be involved, and are innovative. Librarians are service navigators, virtually dual degreed in librarianship and social work. Libraries are the heart of communities, but are increasingly facing challenges in the current social and political climate with disparities between libraries, for example, and highly charged book banning efforts by some. Nonetheless libraries work because of emotional investments and belief in the institution of libraries.

6. **Discussion Topics**

- a. *Future of Libraries*
- b. *Evolution of TADL Into the Future*
- c. *Attracting Non-library Users*
- d. *Moving Into 2025 Millage*

Stephens commended the board of trustees on their Strategic Plan and led the trustees through a dynamic discussion of the future of libraries, helped to guide them through their visions for TADL's future and how that plays into the upcoming library millage. He provided several articles and examples of innovative ideas from other libraries across the world. A general discussion began with reactions to the materials presented and rhetorical questions being asked. Stephens emphasized the importance of continually asking the community what they want as a guide to moving forward.

The board took a brief wellness break at 2:20 and resumed session at 2:35.

Regarding the millage, Howard noted that by asking for an increase to bring it back to the original 1.1mills, following many years of Headlee rollbacks, would mean an additional 1.2 million dollars for TADL. Some evolutionary ideas generated include creating a makerspace or more meeting spaces, moving the local history collection to the old Carnegie Library, an Acme branch, more outreach staff, a social worker on staff, employing technology that would allow patrons to enter the building with no staff present, Civic Saturday programming, flexible spaces and facility upgrades, investigating a coffee/café service, more e-resources, a baby play space, and more. The trustees also discussed more partnerships and outreach to connect with more institutions with common interests, determining who the library is not helping, and refining how the library can maintain a culture of service to the community. The board also discussed adding a non-voting youth board member.

7. **Public Comment**

President Odgers opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

8. **Adjournment**

With a motion to adjourn by Jones, supported by Wescott, President Odgers adjourned the meeting at 3:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by board vote on April 20, 2023

V. Carpenter, Recording Secretary

P. Deyo, Board Secretary