

ORIGINAL

**Carnegie-Stout Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2017**

The Board of Trustees of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library (C-SPL) met in the Lacy Board Room at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2017.

*Present:* Board President Patty Poggemiller; Board Vice President Christy Monk; Board Secretary Pat Maddux; Trustee Robert Armstrong; Trustee Greg Gorton; Trustee Rosemary Kramer; Trustee Pam Mullin; and Director Susan Henricks

*Public:* Ex-officio member, Paula Connors; President, Carnegie-Stout Public Library Foundation, and Tom Barton, Reporter, Telegraph-Herald

1. President Patty Poggemiller called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

*"Moved to adopt the meeting agenda of November 16, 2017."*

*Motion:* Armstrong

*Second:* Mullin

*Vote:* Aye – 7; Nay – 0

2. Approval of Library Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2017.

*"Moved to approve the Board Minutes of Thursday, October 9, 2017 with the correction of number three, A, to read 'President'."*

*Motion:* Mullin

*Second:* Gorton

*Vote:* Aye – 7; Nay – 0

3. Board President's Report:

- A. Board President Patty Poggemiller reviewed the Communication with the Dubuque City Council for October, 2017.

*"Moved to receive and file the Communication with the Dubuque City Council from October, 2017."*

*Motion:* Monk

*Second:* Gorton

*Vote:* Aye – 7; Nay – 0

#### 4. Motion to Receive and File Informational Items:

##### A. Library Director's Report Summary and Update:

- 1) Library Financial Report FY 2017 –Henricks reported that October represented 33% of the fiscal year lapsing. Expenditures were at 33% and revenue collected was at 45% of projections.
- 2) Library Use Statistics – Henricks provided a verbal update on library use. Checkouts to Dubuque cardholders decreased 5% compared to October of 2016; however, checkouts to Open Access patrons increased 10% compared to the same time last year. The total number of books cataloged as "Adult" increased 3% compared to October, 2016 and overall by 2% YTD. Downloadable materials increased in circulation by 13%.
- 3) Facility Update – MEP Engineers, Klauer Construction, Westphal Electric and our Maintenance Supervisor confirmed that an 80 KW generator will meet the Library's needs during a power outage. Klauer Construction will begin work right away. City staff recommended the repair of the limestone modillions on the Carnegie building during a recent Capital Improvement Project (CIP) meeting to prioritize all city CIPs. The roof replacement, previously scheduled, is postponed. We can request this again during next year's budget cycle.
- 4) Marketing Update - Red Rokk Marketing will be on-site in January of 2018 to work with staff and stakeholders, and get to know the Library and community before preparing the campaign, which will launch in early 2018.

*"Moved to receive and file the informational update from the Library Director including the Library Financial Report, Library Use Statistics, Facility and Marketing Update"*

*Motion: Gorton*  
*Second: Maddux*  
*Vote: Aye – 7; Nay – 0*

#### 5. Action Items:

- A. Library Expenditures – Henricks provided an itemized report of FY-17 expenditures from September 23 to November 10, 2017 for the Board's review.

*"Moved to approve Library expenditures for September 23 to November 10, 2017."*

*Motion: Armstrong*  
*Second: Mullin*  
*Vote: Aye – 7; Nay – 0*

- B. Proposal to Sell Grant Wood paintings *Appraisal* and *Victorian Survival* to Mr. and Mrs. John Butler for the amount of \$4,000,000.

Mr. and Mrs. John Butler proposed to purchase *Appraisal* and *Victorian Survival* in the amount of \$4,000,000. The understanding is that Mr. and Mrs. Butler would hold the paintings for a year, accrue a tax benefit, and use this to support the Dubuque Museum of Art. The Museum agreed to designate a particular gallery with naming rights, free admission, year-round, to that dedicated space, and provide clear contractual language in the agreement that would prevent the Museum from selling the paintings, and if a sale were considered the Library would have the right to purchase the paintings for \$1. If the Museum were to cease operations, the ownership would revert to the Library.

Poggemiller welcomed Board input. Poggemiller stated her concern that the paintings were purchased for the Library, and the Board, as responsible stewards it may not be in the best interest of the Library to consider selling the works for 18% of their value. The paintings are the Library's greatest asset as stewards of these Poggemiller stated that "we must consider the ramifications of the sale and what the Library would gain." Mullin said the Board has fiduciary responsibility for the future of the Library and it would be irresponsible to sell at 18% of the value. Maddux noted his concern that the language used in discussions that "...it is unlikely that another buyer would come forward in Dubuque and offer more than \$4 million" was of greatest concern to him and he added that selling a car if more appropriate when considering the potential for other offers, not a \$12 million historic work of art. Maddux also noted that "we've held the paintings for 80 years and they have been available to the community." Poggemiller said that we want to continue to have a positive partnership with the Museum and have no intention for the paintings to leave the community. Armstrong said there is no reason to change the ownership as long as they are staying in Dubuque; he is satisfied with where the paintings are located. Gorton asked if the number was firm; Kramer confirmed she had asked this question and \$4 million is the

number. Kramer said for her, what is most troubling is the perception that the Library would do something other than keep them here.

Poggemiller said there have been issues regarding the contract and a letter has been written to address these concerns. She plans to meet with the Museum of Art President, Russell Knight, to discuss the issues that have come up. Gorton asked about the length of the contract. Poggemiller reported 25 years, and it has now been 10. Gorton asked about the appraisal process of art and does it always increase. Henricks noted that in many cases this is unpredictable and subjective. Americana art is popular right now.

Poggemiller reported that the Museum has, several times, noted "honoring the Lull Trust Fund." The partnership; however, was not outlined in the bequest but was established by an earlier Board of Trustees.

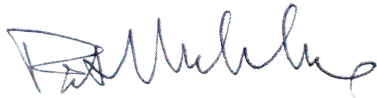
*"Moved to decline the offer to purchase the Grant Wood paintings."*

*Motion: Monk*  
*Second: Maddux*  
*Vote: Aye – 7; Nay – 0*

6. Library Board Adjournment – The Board adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

*"Motion to adjourn."*

*Motion: Monk*  
*Second: Maddux*  
*Vote: Aye – 7; Nay – 0*



---

**Pat Maddux, Board Secretary**

*12-21-17*

---

**Date**