

WILMETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 9:00 am to 1:00pm at
Lakeview Center, 800 Gillson Park Drive, Wilmette, IL 60091

TRUSTEES: Fishman, McDonald, Nealon, O’Keefe, Riddle, Sommer, Wolf

STAFF: Anthony Auston, Michael Boone, Sarah Beth Brown, Patsy DeVuono, Kim Hegelund, Andrea Vaughn Johnson, Marcos Levy, Jill McKeown, John Risko, Jessica Thomson, Fred Wallace, Leah White

VISITORS: Laurie Leibowitz and Elizabeth Seager (LWV – Wilmette)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call.

President McDonald called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Director Auston called the roll.

II. Public Comment. None.

III. Library and Community Overview, Review of Library Trends (Director Auston)

The day began with an interactive exercise for participants to get to know one another. This was the first in-person meeting for the entire Board of Trustees and Leadership Team since the last Strategic Planning process in 2017. Director Auston provided a review of key demographic data about the Wilmette and Kenilworth communities (collected from a variety of sources including the 2020 Census and current Experian consumer market data) to help attendees to better understand the service area in context. Attendees then reviewed Wilmette Library’s challenges and successes over the past several years, including progress toward the fulfilling the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan’s goals. Auston concluded with key emerging trends in public libraries both locally and nationally to help frame the future vision of the industry.

IV. Departmental Updates/Reports (Leadership Team)

Leadership Team members provided an overview of their departments, which included: who they serve, how they serve, and 3 challenges they hope to resolve through the next Strategic Plan. Trustees remarked that they appreciated this comprehensive overview and that they had a better understanding of each department and role as a result of this presentation.

V. Aspirations Exercise (Director Auston, Assistant Director White)

Trustees and staff explored their aspirations for our community and library, in an effort to identify key objectives for the next plan. Each table of four participants discussed the following questions: What kind of community do you want to live in or serve? Why is that important to you? How is that different from how you see things now? and What are some things that need to happen to create that kind of change? Following a series of structured discussions, which continued over lunch, each table summarized their aspirations and later debriefed about the process and discussed next steps. Trustees and staff shared their data, which will be compiled for the committee’s review before next steps are planned, including staff and public engagement. The goal is to approve the final plan later this year.

VI. Adjournment.

Trustee McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wolf seconded.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.

President
Board of Library Trustees of the
Wilmette Public Library District, Cook County, IL

Secretary
Board of Library Trustees of the
Wilmette Public Library District, Cook County, IL

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