

Illinois Literacy Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
March 14, 2023
12:30 p.m.
Illinois State Library – Room 204
Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1796
Held via Webex

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

Roberto Castaneda

Michael Mroz

John Rosales

NOT PRESENT

Carolyn Anthony

Heather Bookstaver

Richard Dent

Crystal Reynolds

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT

Greg McCormick

Beth Paoli

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mroz called the meeting to order and welcomed members at 12:42 p.m. A quorum was not present.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

Chair Mroz asked those present to review the December 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Voting on the approval of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting when a quorum is present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Castaneda provided a Treasurer's Report. According to his records, the current account balance is \$16,938.80. Donations totaling \$2900 received since November 2022, are not reflected in that balance due to difficulty in receiving the statements from the bank. Dr. Castaneda and Mr. McCormick indicated that a few housekeeping items need to be attended to related to the Illinois Literacy Foundation bank account. 1-an additional check signer is needed; 2-action needs to be taken to ensure that bank statements are being delivered to the Illinois State Library; and 3-consideration needs to be given to moving this account from the current investment account to a checking account. Direction from the Executive Office is needed regarding how to proceed. Further discussion will occur at the June 13, 2023, meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Mroz asked for board feedback regarding the latest version of the “Online Storytelling” video that Ms. Paoli distributed via a file sharing program prior to the meeting. Mr. Mroz suggested a few edits and asked for comments from the other board members. Further discussion will occur at the next scheduled meeting.

Chair Mroz gave an update regarding the proposed book drive to be hosted by the Chicago Cubs. Due to many projects that the Cubs organization is currently balancing, it is suggested that the book drive be held in late April / early May. Chair Mroz will make contact with Cubs organization in April.

Chair Mroz revisited the Byline Bank grant opportunity. Some preliminary work has been conducted to determine in which communities both Byline Bank branches and Secretary of State funded family literacy projects are located. These will be the target areas for the proposed project. The grant application is due March 31, 2023.

Chair Mroz recapped the success of the Illinois Literacy Foundation’s presence at the 2022 Du Quoin State Fair. He suggested that guidance be sought from the Executive team regarding the Illinois Literacy Foundation having a presence at the 2023 Springfield and Du Quoin State Fairs. Based on Ms. Bookstaver’s experience at the 2022 Du Quoin fair, it will be important to have means for collecting donations at the fair so as not to miss that opportunity. A decision will need to be made at the June 13 meeting.

Chair Mroz suggested that the Illinois Literacy Foundation build on the experience that was gained from the 2022 International Literacy Day and Giving Tuesday activities and that those efforts continue in 2023. International Literacy Day is celebrated each September 8 and Giving Tuesday will be celebrated on November 28, 2023.

Chair Mroz reminded Illinois State Library staff that the “one-page” fundraising document will need to be updated by the new administration as it is needed to promote the Illinois Literacy Foundation to prospective partners and donors. Mr. McCormick indicates that the Secretary of State’s Communications staff is aware.

Chair Mroz indicates that we will need an update from Ms. Anthony at the next meeting regarding the developing partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Illinois.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Mroz shared that March is National Reading Month and that the Illinois Literacy Foundation may want consider building an activity or campaign around this celebration in 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 1:07 p.m.