

**The Illinois Literacy Foundation
Board Meeting Minutes**

March 8, 2016

12:30 p.m.

James R. Thompson Center, Room 9-036, 100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601

Also available by videoconference and/or teleconference:

Illinois Heartland Library System – DuQuoin

Illinois State Library – Springfield

Present:

Board members: Michael C. Mroz, President; Dr. Robert Castaneda, Treasurer; Heather Bookstaver, Secretary-via teleconference in DuQuoin; Carolyn Anthony; Richard Dent; John Rosales

Guest: Dr. Gail Bush

Secretary of State Staff present: Rachel Farrer; Bette Moreale

Secretary of State Staff present via teleconference in Springfield: Anne Craig, Director, Illinois State Library; Taran Ley, Joe Natale,

Absent:

Board members: None

Welcome and Introductions

President Mroz called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. and called the roll. A quorum was present. The Board welcomed newest member Carolyn Anthony and guest Dr. Gail Bush.

Approval of Minutes

President Mroz presented the December 15, 2015 minutes. Minutes approved.

Motion: Mr. Rosales

Seconded: Dr. Castaneda

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Castaneda reported that the treasury has an ending balance as of February 29, 2016 of \$23,081.50. Treasurer's report approved.

Motion: Ms. Bookstaver

Seconded: Ms. Anthony

Old Business

Board Member Recruitment

President Mroz affirmed continued efforts to recruit Board members with availability of four potential slots (including Secretary of State as a member). *Action(s): Board members agreed to help identify potential candidates for Board membership and to present any potential candidates to the Board for consideration and comment prior to seeking approval from the Secretary of State.*

December Fundraising Letter

Board members indicated no donations had been received. *Action(s): None*

Thank-You Letters

President Mroz informed the Board that five "Thank You" letters had been sent to past Board members in February. *Action(s): None*

Grants

Joe Natale informed the Board that grant applications had been filed for Build-A-Bear (\$5,000) and the Wish You Well Foundation (\$10,000). The Build-A-Bear grant, if successfully received, might be used to purchase books and Little Free Libraries. Currently waiting to hear if applications are approved. *Action(s): State Library staff to continue searching for grant opportunities.*

New Business

Strategic Directions Plan/Branding *The Illinois Literacy Foundation* as an Umbrella Organization

Ms. Bush suggested and the Board discussed using The Illinois Literacy Foundation as an umbrella organization that would act as a clearinghouse or granting agency which facilitates local networking and collaboration among existing Illinois literacy programs and authors. The Board noted that the Strategic Directions Plan focuses on children being the beneficiary of The Illinois Literacy Foundation's efforts which may be too limiting for an umbrella type of an organization model to be effective. The Board further noted that a broader spectrum of beneficiaries would need to be included in the model in order for it to be truly effective, which would be in conflict with The Illinois Literacy Foundation's current strategic direction.

Action(s): The Board determined further discussion would be needed prior to any further consideration of the proposal.

Bernie's Book Bank

President Mroz discussed potential meeting with Bernie's Book Bank founder to discuss potential synergies and/or partnership activities. *Action(s): President Mroz agreed to reach out to Bernie's Book Bank founder to schedule an exploratory discussion.*

Fundraising

The Board suggested updating the date on the December Fundraising Letter and adding a reference to The Illinois Literacy Foundation's 501(3)(c) designation for continued use. Director Craig also encouraged continued use of the Amazon Smile program as a fundraising opportunity.

Action(s): Ms. Anthony volunteered to edit the December Fundraising Letter as necessary. Board members agreed to encourage the use of the Amazon Smile program amongst their personal contacts and networks.

Heather Bookstaver informed the Board she would need to leave at 1:42 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Rosales

Seconded: Dr. Castaneda