

**OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Saturday, July 9, 2016

9:00am

Main Library – Veterans Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Matt Baron called the meeting to order at 9:17am.

Present: Matt Baron, Ted Foss, Win Fox, Janet Kelenson, and Matt Fruth

Absent: Carmenza Millan and Bruce Samuels

Also Present: David J. Seleb, Executive Director; Jim Madigan, Deputy Director; Anne Bensfield, Martyn Churchouse, Elizabeth Marszalik, Lori Pulliam, Eric Battaglia, Jodi Kolo, Robert Simmons, Alexandra Skinner, Kathleen Spale, and Jennifer Norborg

2. Visitor Comments

None

3. Introductions and Objectives

David Seleb introduced Anne Bensfield and Martyn Churchouse as leaders for the morning's conversation. He then defined the meeting's objectives as using Harwood tools to help us get to where we want to go for the 2017 strategic plan. Information will also be important for creating a new mission and vision.

David said the library has done a lot to create new plans around engagement, learning, and stewardship with measurable action items. But the mission and vision are less responsive to everything learned with Harwood over the last few years.

4. Discussion

Martyn Churchouse began with a review of the Harwood method, including community aspirations, community conversations, public knowledge, and innovation spaces. He then described the Harwood Community Rhythms Tool, which is used to identify stages of change and where our community is in the cycle. Anne Bensfield described each stage of the cycle in detail. The trustees and others present completed a Community Rhythms worksheet and then discussed the results. Following the discussion, nine participants concluded that Oak Park was in the Catalytic stage of development and three thought that Oak Park was in the Impasse stage.

Anne led the group through the Community Rhythms do's and don'ts for each stage, and talked about "boundary spanning organizations" (BSO). These are groups not necessarily acting but bringing people together to act.

The participants had a break at approximately 10:30am.

Following the break, Martyn Churchouse presented information on the “sweet spot of public life”, which is the convergence of the community’s concerns with the community’s conditions. This is the best space in which organizations can take action to build conditions for change with the most positive impact.

Martyn then began the Innovation Space portion of the meeting. He explained that the purpose of the rest of the morning was to discuss learning that will inform the development of our next visions and mission statements. The writing of the vision and mission statements will happen later.

Following the conversation, Martyn explained that all the discussion notes would be compiled for later review and use.

David Seleb said that all the information obtained through the discussions would be used to develop the strategic action plan for 2017, the library’s vision statement, the library mission statement, and the budget for fiscal year 2017.

5. Adjourn

President Baron adjourned the special meeting at 12:12pm.