

Library Board Gears Up For New Director Candidates

By Anne Lunde | on January 03, 2018

After losing their top finalists in their search for library director, Park Ridge Library Board members brought a list of proposed changes for the process to their Dec. 19 meeting.

Efforts to be very transparent in the first set of candidates had the board considering releasing private materials to the public before candidates were hired.

Board members have now voted to conduct interviews in closed session; get staff feedback and then deliberate in closed session; potentially have an open forum with finalists and the public; then return to deliberate in a separate closed session and determine a salary offer in closed session.

There was not universal agreement.

The board is trying to replace long-term library director Janet Van DeCarr, who retired in June. The library director position is the only job for hire.

Judy Rayborn, de facto search committee chair, stressed that the board needs to understand the process before it starts another round.

In the first round, the board had agreed on one process and shifted gears during the candidate forum.

Any discussion in open meetings, it was suggested, should be about numbered candidates, not individual names.

No decisions can be made in closed session; the board would have to come back into open session to vote on approving hiring a candidate and the salary to be paid. The agenda and the plan to take action after closed session must be announced in advance.



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