

Good evening. I'm Mike Reardon and I live at 430 S. Prospect.

I have been a member of the Library Board of Trustees for the last two and a half years and have been the Treasurer for the last year and a half. I am not here representing the Library Board, but am representing myself, and my opinions expressed here are my individual and personal views. I have not advised the other Trustees of my presence here tonight.

I'd like to add some substance and balance to the library board meeting attendance issue that has been brought before this council.

For the record, my attendance record for 2017, as noted in Mayor Maloney's letter of January 30, 2018 was 94%.

I'd like to give some background about Library Board meetings. The Library Board generally conducts its business through two meetings a month on the second and third Tuesdays. In addition, the Board has special meetings concerning specific topics. These meetings are held because the topics are time-sensitive. In other words, we can't wait for the regularly scheduled Board or Committee of the Whole meetings. So we schedule the meeting as quickly as we can get a quorum, provided the appropriate Board members with the needed background, skills and experience are available. For example, with respect to hiring a new director, the Board ensures that Trustee Judy Rayborn, the HR director at the Newberry Library, is available because the Board has appropriately decided to take advantage of her relevant skills and experience to guide the hiring process. Likewise, for the remodeling of the building, the two engineers on the Board are most appropriate to guide those special meetings.

When there are time-sensitive specialized matters, the Board has exercised its good judgment to proceed with meetings that include the trustees with appropriate and relevant background. This necessarily excludes other Trustees who have a scheduling conflict.

For 2017, nearly 30% of the meetings were special meetings scheduled in this fashion. Unlike regularly scheduled meetings, there was not much advance notice for these meetings and trustees had no ability to prospectively block their calendars. I believe that it is inappropriate to penalize the trustees who were excluded from these meetings based on prior scheduling conflicts.

In addition, there are other meetings that deal with library business. Specifically, let me tell you about my schedule. I reviewed at my calendar for 2017. In 2017, I had 70 meetings dealing with library business. This is an additional 36 meetings that did not involve a majority of a quorum of trustees and therefore were not subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. For example, I had financial meetings with the staff, I had scheduled meetings with patrons, I met with staff on HR issues and I had meetings

with architects on remodeling the building. All of these meetings were in addition to the 34 meetings for which attendance was counted.

All of this fails to account for the work I was doing independently between meetings. I am confident that all of the alderman can appreciate that in order to conscientiously discharge my duties, significant review, research and analysis takes place outside of meetings.

Moreover, in the three meetings that I couldn't attend, I sent my comments and opinions to another Board member and asked him or her to share my thoughts with the full Board. Other Board members ask the same of me if they cannot attend. In other words, the absence of a Board member from a meeting does not necessarily mean that their insights and contributions are not being communicated.

Many, if not all, of the library trustees have similar schedules and workload.

It's misguided to measure the contribution and accomplishment of individual trustees solely by attendance at meetings where there is a quorum of trustees. Those trustees who have been criticized for their lack of attendance are generally those who are doing the most work outside the meetings and the ones whom I depend on most heavily.

In addition, Alderman Melidosian, the library liaison, is always available to the library trustees. As far as I know, there has never been an occasion where we have needed his guidance and have failed to get it.

I would ask that the City Council take a close look at the language of the applicable ordinance. Given the amount of work that is being done outside regularly scheduled meetings, you should decide how to measure contribution and accomplishment more holistically than mere attendance records.

If anyone wants to discuss this matter, Cheryl Peterson has my contact information.

I'd like to tender this statement for the meeting minutes.

Thank you.