

Planning & Operations:

Mr. Parisi reported that there were two main issues discussed by the Committee, and he proposed that the matter of the proposed purchase of new meeting room chairs be discussed prior to the draft tutor policy issue and then audience comments on the draft tutor policy will be entertained.

Mr. Parisi reported that in August Mrs. Van De Carr informed the Committee that the meeting room chairs are in need of repair and she proposed that rather than repair the existing chairs, she recommended the purchase of new meeting room chairs using funds from the Dorothy Moriarity Trust. At the request of the Committee, Mrs. Van De Carr provided additional quotes and sample chairs to the Committee. At the October Committee meeting the Committee reviewed and tried out the sample chairs and gave feedback on the individual chairs. At the Committee meeting Mrs. Van De Carr explained her recommendation of the KI Opt 4 chair, namely that it is durable, comfortable, and lighter in weight than the current chairs, and the weight of the chairs for room setup is an issue. Mr. Lamb stated that he felt that the KI Opt 4 chairs were the most comfortable chairs, and with respect to longevity they have a warranty of ten years, which to him means you pay more at the front end to save money in the long run.

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Parisi made a

MOTION: to approve the purchase of the KI Opt 4 chairs in gray, and caddy, at the cost of \$17,758, using funds from the Dorothy Moriarity Trust.

Discussion ensued regarding the motion. Mr. Trizna stated that he felt the specifications for the chairs was not provided to the Committee and that the cost of the KI Opt 4 chairs are much more expensive than the other chairs and he feels the Committee is not doing its due diligence in purchasing these chairs when the \$48 chairs were fine. He added that he felt that the difference of a chair weighing 5 more pounds (than the KI Opt 4 chair) makes no difference and so he will be voting 'no'.

Mr. White stated that he is troubled that the Board is even making this decision. He stated that he has sat on other boards and currently sits on another Board aside from the Library Board and the choosing of a chair has never come to a board trustee to decide. That the Board should even question Mrs. Van De Carr and the staff is unheard of. "I'm troubled that we have to even question Jan and the staff about which chairs to buy,"

Mr. Reardon stated that in his role as a fiduciary for the taxpayers he believes it needs to be said that the Demco chair costs 35% of what the proposed KI chair costs and they appear to function the same and be as comfortable and he believes he would be irresponsible to vote for the KI chair with the current information.

Mr. Egan stated he agrees with Mr. Reardon and addressed Mr. White and said he feels that it's the Board's responsibility that the Library's budget is spent appropriately. Mr. White replied that the funds are not budgeted funds, they are gift funds. Mr. Egan stated that he believes that the Trust would want the Board to use the money wisely. He added that in doing a Google search he found many chairs that he felt were comparable to the suggested chair and he doesn't think it's prudent to pick the most expensive chair presented and so he will be voting 'no'.

Mrs. Van De Carr explained that when she began considering purchasing new meeting room chairs it was because at least 50 of the current chairs have torn upholstery. In 2013 when they were last reupholstered, the cost was \$110 per chair and at that time she told staff she would not again spend money on repairing these chairs that were over 30 years old. She sought out high density, stacking chairs – and those were the specifications – and she added that yes, there are a lot of chairs on the market that are high-density, plastic, molded, stacking chairs. What the Library has are high-density, plastic, stacking chairs and many patrons have complained about how uncomfortable they are to sit on during a program or movie for two hours. The chairs are upholstered and they were never meant to be upholstered, and that is probably why they have continued to deteriorate the way they have. Mrs. Van De Carr added that she has been looking for appropriate chairs for a couple of years, and what she found is that many libraries had purchased the KI Opt 4 chairs, which have only been on the market about four years and are only made by one

manufacturer. In speaking with staff at many of those libraries she was told they are very happy with the chairs. The KI Opt 4 chairs are attractive, comfortable, lightweight, and when you have staff setting up 100 chairs and taking down 100 chairs multiple times a day, she believes the weight does matter as well and that is why she recommended these chairs. Mrs. Van De Carr added that she felt that the gift money given to the Library by the Dorothy Moriarity Trust was given to the Library to make improvements, and she believes this is a suitable improvement to the meeting room, chairs that have a good long life and are attractive, comfortable, and easier for staff to set up and take down. Mrs. Van De Carr added that she cannot recommend any of the other plastic, molded chairs because the Library would end up in the same situation where patrons aren't comfortable, not liking the hard plastic chairs, and this is why she recommended the chairs that she did. She added that yes, one can Google and find other plastic, molded chairs, but she doesn't feel it would be appropriate to bring multiple inappropriate chairs before the Committee for its consideration. Mr. Parisi thanked Mrs. Van De Carr for the explanation and insight on how she made her decision. He added that he practiced stacking the chairs and he agrees that the KI chairs are considerably less heavy than the current chairs and he can imagine the burden of moving the heavier chairs back and forth every day. Mr. Parisi asked if there were further comments.

Mr. Lamb stated that whether it's trust funds or it's tax monies, the trustees have a fiduciary responsibility – not that he doesn't value the time and effort the staff put into it – he for one, from personal experience, can appreciate that five pounds less per chair is significant when moving hundreds of chairs. Mr. Lamb stated he appreciates the general comments of his fellow Board Trustees regarding this issue, and he stated he appreciates that the money is coming from the Dorothy Moriarity Trust. Mr. Lamb states he feels it's a little bothersome that the trustees have spent this time evaluating these chairs and made a preliminary vote, and he feels betwixt and between on the issue. He stated he applauds the staff also for their input and their hard work every day, which is why we have a fine Library, but the Board does have a responsibility. Mr. Parisi asked if there were any comments from the audience in regard to the chairs. There being no comments, Mr. Parisi asked for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote: 3 Yay: Lamb, Parisi, Rayborn
5 Nay: Egan, Dobrilovic, Foss-Eggemann, Reardon, Trizna
1 Abstain: White

MOTION FAILED

Mr. Parisi stated that before moving on to the matter of the tutors in the Library, Mr. Egan stated the next item is the motion on the tutoring policy. For the people who haven't attended a Board meeting before, Mr. Egan stated he would like to recap that everyone in this room values tutors; there is no doubt you are wonderful you add value. Mr. Egan stated that a number of months ago it came to the attention of the Board that tutors and people offering other for-profit businesses use the Library and he stated that complaints have been received that the tutors are loud and monopolize the tables and space. He added that someone unsolicited spotted him in downtown Chicago to tell him that she and her children come to the Library all the time and that they have a hard time finding space in the Library because the tutors are using the space. Mr. Egan stated that the Library Board meets twice a month and has discussed this subject and received input from audience people at the last six meetings. Mr. Egan reviewed that the Library staff by the Board to monitor and keep track of the number of tutors using the Library and report back to the Board and he estimates that the tutors use the Library 100 hours per week. Also the tutors charge for their services of \$20 an hour on up to \$100 an hour, with an average of about \$50 to \$75 an hour. Adding that up over the course of a year Mr. Egan stated that is about \$200,000 to \$250,000 a school year that the paid tutors make using the Library for free. Mr. Egan explained that members of the Board and Library staff researched libraries having policies regarding tutoring. Of the 62 policies of libraries all over the country that were researched, about 25% of those ban tutors and of the remaining, about 15% charge the tutors. Mr. Egan added that one Board Trustee reported that in their web search they found thousands of hits regarding libraries and Library policies for people conducting business in libraries – which was about another 16 more policies. He added that the state of Hawaii bans businesses from doing business in a library statewide. Mr. Egan said, therefore, the Park Ridge Library is not the only library that has addressed this issue. Mr. Egan said the options that could be considered by the Board are 1) do nothing; 2) ban all tutors; 3) just ban those tutors who get paid and let the other tutors continue to use the Library; 4) develop a policy that charges all tutors; 5) develop a policy that charges tutors who get