

## Law Library Board of Trustees Minutes

Annual Meeting – June 07, 2024 (held in person)

Present: Hon. Patrick Robben (President of the Board), Mike McCarthy (Vice-President of the Board), Tom Walsh, Hon. Nelson Peralta, Hon. Joe Klein, Commissioner Angela Conley

Absent: Lisa Marie Buck

Also Present (Non-voting): Karen Westwood (Law Library Director), Ryan Curry (Hennepin County Library Interim CFO), Scott Duimstra (Hennepin County Library Director), Jessica Sharpe (new board appointee, effective July 2024)

Judge Robben called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Judge Peralta moved for approval of last year's minutes (dated June 1, 2023); Commissioner Conley seconded. Mike McCarthy abstained. Approved.

### **Michael McCarthy's Resignation and Thanks for Years of Service**

Judge Robben reflected on Mike McCarthy's 16 years of service on the board and thanked him for his attention to the needs and goals of the law library. Judge Robben pointed out that after Mr. McCarthy steps down he will be the only remaining member of the board with memories of large changes – the relationship with the public library, the renovation of the physical space, and others. Mr. McCarthy received a hearty round of applause from all present.

### **Elections**

Judge Klein nominated Judge Robben to continue as President. Mike McCarthy seconded. Approved unanimously. Tom Walsh nominated himself for Vice-President. Mike McCarthy seconded. Approved unanimously.

### **Approval of 2023 Receipts and Disbursements and 2025 Budget Request**

Judge Klein moved to approve 2023 receipts and disbursements. Mike McCarthy seconded. Approved unanimously. Commissioner Conley moved to approve the 2025 budget request. Mike McCarthy seconded. Director Westwood explained the request and Ryan Curry, Hennepin County Library Interim CFO was present to respond to additional questions regarding the budget.

Approved unanimously.

### **Director's Report**

Director Westwood reported on 2023, noting that the metrics we measure (reference questions, people visiting the law library in person and requests from the residents at the public safety facility) are either holding steady or increasing.

CLE classes offered in 2023 were well-received, particularly those that were accompanied by displays in the law library and which featured national speakers.

Outreach efforts continued with partnership with the public library, the court, the county, and local legal and business nonprofits. Outreach Coordinator Marlena Okechukwu left to take a

promotional opportunity at St. Paul Public Library in March, but the Outreach Coordinator position has been filled by a new employee this week.

Looking forward, the law library continues to watch AI developments and how they are affecting both librarianship and the legal industry. Legal vendors tend to roll out new technology to law firms and academic institutions before offering it to government customers. The law library will continue to connect with colleagues and vendors to track advances in this area.

Director Westwood added her thanks to Mike McCarthy for his service to the board, commenting on his consistent preparedness for meetings, his direct and clear communication style and the incisive questions he asks. We will miss his long experience and his thoughtful contributions to the board.

Judge Robben reminded the board of a legislative proposal to create a task force to study county law library funding throughout the state. Although there was considerable work put into developing the proposal, it did not receive a sponsor and was not introduced in the 2024 legislative session. It is important to keep an eye on whether this develops in another way (perhaps a Judicial Branch task force?) as Hennepin County Law Library's funding model differs from other counties and must be considered if a statewide change receives consideration.

#### **Greetings from Hennepin County Library Director Scott Duimstra**

Library Director Duimstra brought greetings from the public library system and described the return to full service in the public library system as circulation and use of library cards continue to increase. Behind those statistics are stories of individual users, including those who participated in various Mary Ann Key Book Club events this year, in which the law library also participated. This is a good example of how the law library and public library together make impactful change in the lives of individuals.

Mike McCarthy moved to adjourn, Commissioner Conley seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.