

Forest Park Public Library
Report on the Review of Executive Sessions (Closed Meetings)

On January 18, 2020, Trustees Karen Childs and Brooke Sievers conducted a review of executive sessions, i.e., closed meetings, of the Forest Park Public Library Board as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), as amended by Public Act 93-974. The time period covered by this review was February 2004 through December 2019. One new executive session was held during since the last review in July 2019.

Meeting of December 16, 2019 [digital verbatim recording]

This session consisted of the discussion and recommendation of awarding a bonus to a staff member for years of service.

Recommendation: Continue to keep this session closed to the public, per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Over the past year, Board President Karen Childs has listened to audio recordings and taken written minutes. Once she completed this process, Secretary Brooke Sievers and she reviewed all of the minutes to ensure the closed session minutes met the criteria of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The following minutes are recommended to be open to the public:

Meeting of November 24, 2004

This session consisted of the discussion of library finances.

Meeting of October 17, 2005

This session consisted of the discussion of stolen library property and inappropriate behavior by the cleaning crew.

Meeting of August 21, 2006

This session consisted of the discussion of potentially going to referendum.

Meeting of December 15, 2008

This session consisted of the discussion of potentially adding a part-time position to Tech Services.

Meeting of April 20, 2009

This session consisted of the discussion of a new evaluation tool for the director.

It is recommended to keep the recordings of all previous executive sessions currently on file except those listed above closed to the public, per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Forest Park Public Library
Closed session of the Board of Trustees
November 24, 2004

Roll call: Trustees present: Debbie King, Dwight Decker, Susan Bale, Karen Childs, Andrea Blaylock. Staff present: Rodger Brayden, Director.

Reason for closed session: Employment and/or compensation of specific employees per Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Discussion ensued regarding the library operating in the red for the last 6 years, in effect borrowing from the next year's budget. Walmart may be disputing their taxes-- \$1 million reduction overall -- so our income is uncertain. Discussed specific line changes that could balance the 2005/2006 budget.

Went back into open session.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Childs, Secretary

Forest Park Public Library
Closed Session of the Board of Trustees
10-17-05

Roll call: Trustees present: Debbie King, Karen Childs, Andre Marshall, Susan Bale, Dwight Decker. Staff present: Rodger Brayden, Director, is asked to come in partway through meeting.

Reason for closed session: The discipline and performance of a specific employee per the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

The board president, D. King, had received two emails about three separate incidents. One regarded a stolen camera belonging to the library. Two regarded the cleaning crew. First, they brought children to work with them, possibly because they didn't have anyone to watch them while they worked. Second, it seems they allowed a teenager (family or friend?) to view porn on the main computer in the server room in the basement. Discussion ensued about the possible liability of the library should one of the children get hurt while on the premises during hours when the library was closed and unstaffed. The director seemed to defend the cleaning crew for doing their best when they didn't have childcare, but the board did not agree with that choice. All did not want anyone viewing porn on the computers, especially in a restricted area of the basement and the main computer. Unsure of potential consequences. Unsure if the cleaning crew was responsible for the missing camera. The board discussed steps it would take. The director was asked to come into the meeting at that point. The board discussed that it would like this cleaning crew replaced with another one. The board would like the director to have a mentor for his growth as a first-time director.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Childs, Secretary

Forest Park Public Library
Closed Session of the Board of Trustees
4-20-09

Roll call: Trustees present: Dave McNeilly, Andrea Blaylock, Karen Childs, Andre Marshall, Trudy Roznos.

Reason for closed session: At first, A. Blaylock, President, seemed to indicate that this would be the start of the evaluation of the performance of the Director. Then the board discussed choosing a different evaluation tool. After some time, the board picked a date to do the Director's evaluation.

Went back into open session.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Childs, Secretary

Forest Park Public Library
Closed Session of the Board of Trustees
8-21-06

Roll call: Trustees present: Andrea Blaylock, Dave McNeilly, Andre Marshall, Rebecca Vnuk, Karen Childs. Staff present: Rodger Brayden, Director.

Reason for closed session: Quarterly review of evaluation of Director's performance per the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

R. Brayden, the Director, speaks at length, but it is very quiet, hard to distinguish. Then there is general discussion about going for a referendum.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Childs, Secretary

Forest Park Public Library
Closed Session of the Board of Trustees
12-15-08

Roll call: Trustees present: Andrea Blaylock, Karen Childs, Trudy Roznos, Dave McNeilly.
Trustee absent: Andre Marshall. Staff present: Rodger Brayden.

Reason for closed session: should not have been closed session

The Director, R. Brayden, discussed the pros and cons of adding a part-time position to Tech Services. There was also a discussion about cleaning up the databases, partly so we can clearly identify how many current library card holders we have.

Went back into open session.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Childs, Secretary