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## **Racine Public Library Board of Trustees Finance & Personnel Committee** **APPROVED Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Racine Public Library Board Finance & Personnel Committee was held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am via video conference due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Members present: Melissa Kaprelian, Chris Terry, and Sue Trottier. Staff Members present: Executive Director Angela Zimmermann and Head of Adult and Youth Services, Darcy Mohr.

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 10:31 AM.
2. **Introductions** – Darcy Mohr, Head of Adult & Youth Services.
3. **Comments from the Public** - None
4. **Approval of April Meeting Minutes** - Sue Trottier made the motion and Melissa Kaprelian seconded, to approve the minutes. Motion Passed.
5. **New Business**

### **a) Approve Job Description for Library Social Worker**

Angela Zimmermann explained that libraries in general are becoming much more than a repository for books, and that we need to provide different types of information access, especially to the marginalized community. Homelessness, mental illness and poverty affect our patrons. In order to better address these issues, she is proposing hiring a full time Social Worker. The senior leadership committee of the City is fully behind RPL creating this position.

Darcy Mohr gave a presentation based on her five years of research on why RPL should hire a full time Social Worker. She provided statistics that the intern over the past 18 months had tabulated. 50% of those people asking questions about social services dealt with housing and about 30% dealt with food insecurity. Darcy and Angela see RPL becoming a trusted point of contact for the entry point into the various social services in the community.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the salary for this position, the hours and access to the position that the community would have, training of staff and the storing of individual private information, along with other topics as well.

Sue Trottier made the motion and Melissa Kaprelian seconded it, to bring the recommendation to hire a full time social worker, to the full Board Meeting in May. Angela Zimmermann will re-evaluate the salary. Chris Terry mentioned that United Way might possibly provide funds for this endeavor, and Angela will investigate.

6. **Adjournment** – Sue Trottier made the motion and Melissa Kaprelian seconded it, and meeting was adjourned at 11:30. The next meeting for Personnel and Finance will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:30 am.