

## Trustees Minutes

March 19, 2019

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Those present were:

Axelrod	Goldman	Livingston	Martin-Page
Burstein	Healy	Lohe	Mehta
Chanyasulkit	Jones	Margolis	Vanderkay

Also present: S. Slymon, Director; A. Reed, Assistant Director, and C. Bignoli Assistant Director of Technology.

### **I. Election of Vice Chair:**

**M** Carol Axelrod was nominated for Vice Chair of the Board of Library Trustees. By roll call vote, Carol Axelrod was elected unanimously for Vice Chair.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

**M** It was moved to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting. It was requested that there be a change in the Programming Committee report. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously as amended.

### **III. Correspondence**

K. Martin-Page read a thank you card from Coolidge Corner page, Tom Golden thanking the Trustees for the wonderful holiday party and a sympathy card from former staff member Mary Bergman who had sent a donation and kind words regarding Paula Sharaga. K. Givens will email the Trustees the google folder link to view the documents all in one place.

### **IV. Library Director's Report**

**Circulation:** The circulation stats were distributed to the Board. The Coolidge Corner Branch was closed for 4 days for events in memory of Paula Sharaga.

**Financial:** The rolling annual financial report can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IibvGm1WYNh2iqaFE95kNZdIS1RHDCclvrKNZMHRQUo/e/dit?usp=sharing>. The FY'19 budget was distributed.

**This Month in Libraries:** The Louisville Free Public library bowed to public pressure and cancelled their Drag Queen Story Hour. The library union and many other people who value the First Amendment object strongly. The article can be viewed at: <https://www.courier-ournal.com/story/news/politics/metro-government/2019/03/11/louisville-library-union-condems-lgbtq-intolerance-after-drag-event-canceled/3131417002/>.

**Auctioned Items:** The Director reported that the sale of the last batch of de-accessioned items brought in \$13,000 to the Board of Library Trustee funds. Roy MacKenzie will be coming to tonight's meeting to seek approval to dispose of some more materials in the closed stacks in the same fashion.

**South by Southwest Report (SXSW):** The Director reported on the South by Southwest conference held at the Austin Convention Center and took a moment to acknowledge the generosity and wisdom of the Board of Library Trustees for robustly supporting continuing education and professional development for library administration. The Director and Assistant Director of Technology adopted a divide and conquer strategy in order to cover the most territory. There were 4,000 speakers and 400,000 attendees. There were often 7-10 presentations in a given time slot that they wanted to attend. Several presenters noted that libraries are the hot topic at SXSW this year, which the Director was thrilled to

hear. Both Sara and Callan will be presenting at next year's SXWW. Full reports will be forthcoming from the both of them but the following are some examples of sessions that the Director attended:

How Books Are Fighting Back in the Digital Age  
Our Own Worst Enemy: Why Women Keep Each Other Down  
Ignorance Leads to Opportunity: Assume Less. Ask More.  
Ain't I A Woman: Importance of Addressing Race Within the Woman's Movement  
Queering Professionalism, Transforming Gender  
We Tried to Tell Y'all: Black Twitter as a Source  
The US Is Racist AF. What Can I Do?  
No Hard Feelings: Emotions at Work  
Featured Session: Palaces for the People with Eric Klinenberg  
Your Privilege Is Showing

**Trustee Tools:** The Director distributed the Trustee Handbook Focus: MGL CH 78 and the Trustee Handbook Focus: Trustees and the Law for the Board of Library Trustees to review.

**Upcoming Budget Meetings:** The Director will be appearing before the full Advisory Committee on Thursday night, March 21 and the Select Board on Tuesday, March 26 and hopes to see some members of the Board of Library Trustees there. The Director was also pleased to hear from C. Chanyasulkit that the sub-committee unanimously recommended the proposed budget to the full committee.

**Personnel:** The Director announced that Brent Blair has been hired as the Supervisor of Library Operations. Brent has been the Deputy Director of Capital Projects and Facilities Management for the City of Framingham for the last 8 years and brings a wealth of experience in both building management, capital planning, and staff leadership and development. There has not been much luck replacing Kookie Feagin, house worker, who retired in December. Several interviews have been set up and no one has shown up. This seems to be endemic in the digital age where people simply apply for positions to satisfy the requirements of unemployment, but do not have any real interest in the job. There has been a dramatic uptick in this behavior since the Town started using the company Indeed.

**Menstrual Products:** The Director informed the Trustees of a warrant article on Free Menstrual Hygiene Products in all public buildings (Creation of new By-Law 8.37: Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products in Brookline's Public Buildings). P. Mehta also informed the Board that there is a bill also in front of the Legislation. There will be much more discussion but the Director just wanted the Trustees to be aware of the article. M. Burstein will bring the subject of funding up at Town Meeting, if the Board would like The Director informed the Board that a revolving fund has been set up for the library and that she would draft an impact statement to the Advisory Committee Human Relations Sub-committee.

**Miracle Messages:** NOT REALLY SURE IF WE ARE REACHING OUT TO THEM OR NOT BUT THIS IS WHAT I HAVE IN MY NOTES: "Miracle Messages is a nonprofit message delivery service to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness reconnect with their loved ones. We are tackling the "relational poverty" isolating as many as 1 in 3 people experiencing homelessness".

**M De-accession:** Roy MacKenzie arrived and asked the Board of Library Trustees for approval to dispose of some more materials in the closed stacks. He plans to have an appraiser look at some of the more valuable items. A motion was made to de-accession the materials from the closed stacks. This motion was seconded and passed with 2 opposed.

**Patriot Act:** The library has not been served with any court orders since the last meeting.

**V. Committee Reports**

**M Library Services Committee:** The Board of Library Services met and distributed revisions to the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Policy, Telephone Inquiries Policy, and Appropriate Patron Behavior Policy, which they are recommending to the full Board of Library Trustees. A motion was made and seconded to accept the revisions to the Interlibrary Loan Policy. This motion passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to accept the revisions to the Telephone Inquiries Policy. This motion passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to accept the revisions to the Appropriate Patron Behavior Policy. This motion passed unanimously.

**Programming Committee:** The Programming Committee met and reported that the 2019 Edith Pearlman Book Award ceremony will be held at Brookline High School on April 23. This is also the same night as the Board's Trustee meeting so someone from the English Department will present the award on the library's behalf. The Director recommends sending a staff member. Brookline Reads met and Magdalene is drafting an invitation to Dan Brown to be the Brookline Reads featured speaker. Once it is determined if and when he can speak in Brookline, the committee will move ahead with other programming ideas.

**Finance Committee:** Expenditures to date were reviewed and compared with budgeted amounts. All items within are within the, although some major expenses are still to arrive. The Finance Committee has discussed the possibility of cuts to individual budget items (and identified some of these) vs. an across-the-board reduction of some percentage, depending on the endowment. The Committee also felt the need to continue at the current level of a 4½ % drawdown.

**VI. Old/New Business**

**April Trustee Meeting:** The next Board of Library Trustee meeting will be held on April 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**VII. Adjourn**

**M** There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimous:

Voted: To adjourn at 8:23 p.m.  
A true record.  
ATTEST

Koinonia I. Martin-Page  
Secretary  
2019