

Trustees Minutes April 23, 2019

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Those present were:

Axelrod Healy Lohe Vanderkay Chanyasulkit Jones Margolis Goldman
Livingston Martin-Page (remotely)

Also present: S. Slymon, Director; A. Reed, Assistant Director, C. Bignoli, Assistant Director of Technology; B. Blair, Supervisor of Library Operations and C. Wilkins, Supervisor of Collection Development.

I. Approval of Minutes It was moved to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting. Several amendments were requested. The amended motions were seconded and passed unanimously.

II. Library Director's Report

Introduction of Supervisor of Library Operations: The Director introduced Brent Blair, the new Supervisor of Library Operations, to the Board. Brent came to the library from Framingham, where he managed a staff of ten, is OSHA certified, and is the proud father of four-year old twin girls. The Board of Library Trustees welcomed Brent to Brookline.

Circulation: The circulation stats were distributed to the Board. C. Wilkins informed the Trustees that they have stopped production on the Blu-ray format. Best Buy is no longer selling DVD's. HBO and Netflix are no longer providing DVD copies of their unique programming.

Financial: The rolling annual financial report can be found at:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IbVgM1WYNh2iqaFE95kNZdIS1RHDCcIvrKNZMHrQUo/e dit?usp=sharing>.

This Month in Libraries: The Director reported that although the nature and cost of professional development books on the topic of librarianship is always a hot topic, the following opinion piece about how they contribute to keeping the profession white, was a disturbing eye opener. It can be viewed at:
<https://bookriot.com/2019/04/07/professional-development-books-in-libraryscience/>.

The Obama Presidential Center has been an object of much discussion as it is the first

presidential library ever to be “born digital”. The Director found the following article by Dan Cohen, formerly President of the Digital Public Library of America:
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/04/obamas-presidential-library-should-be-digital-first/586693/>.

FY’20 Budget: The Director informed the Board that the Advisory Committee season passed relatively pleasantly and very successfully this year. The subcommittees were combined into one, which cut the number of meetings and the amount of exposure in half, and they unanimously recommended that the library budget be approved as submitted. The Select Board asked a lot of interesting questions this year, but they apparently are not voting to support individual budgets anymore. They did not notify the library of this change, so it was a little disorienting. The Director thanked the Board of Library Trustees again for their support at the meetings and always. The budget will now go to Town Meeting.

Coolidge Corner Landscaping: The Director and B. Blair met with K. Brewton, Economic Development Officer, to discuss the offer from Chestnut Hill Realty Group to pay for some of the landscaping at Coolidge Corner and asked them for some amendments to their proposal. The Director will set up a meeting with E. Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Division Director, to discuss strategies on how to proceed with the overall needs for improved hardscape and other landscaping. Once a firmer proposal is developed, the Director will have E. Gallentine and B. Blair come to the Board of Library Trustees with the proposal.

Minuteman Director: The Executive Director position at Minuteman search committee has identified two exciting and eminently qualified candidates to fill the position. Final interviews will be conducted on May 1, 2019 and May 2, 2019.

Team Brookline: The Director reported that all of the Brookline Library Foundation runners exceeded their required fundraising goals and thanked those that contributed.

Personnel: Interviews are still being conducted for the Children’s Librarian II position at Coolidge Corner. The Director reported that it has been bittersweet to interview and to imagine someone filling Paula’s shoes, but that it is necessary. Stephen Toropov, part-time Library Assistant has been offered a job as a full-time Teen Librarian at Teen Central at the Boston Public Library in the beautifully renovated Copley building. The staff is happy and proud of him. Alas, the Cambridge Public Library enticed Maria Rolsal, a part-time Reference Librarian who we had recently rehired, but the staff wish her well. Teen Librarian, R. Brenner, has been invited to speak this July in Lima, Peru by the U.S. Embassy in Peru to speak about U.S. libraries and comics. The Journal of the Senate adjourned their session on March 25, 2019 in memory of Paula.

State Aid: The Director reported that, thanks to A. Reed, the library has been re-certified for State Aid and should be expecting to receive our second annual installment of approximately \$44,000.

M Sale of Toys: After some discussion it was requested that the Director reach out to Skinner Auction to see if they would be willing to give the library a discount for being a being a non-profit agency. It was then moved to proceed with the selling of the toys. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

III. Committee Reports

Programming Committee: The Edith Pearlman Book Award is being presented tonight by R. Brenner. Dan Brown has agreed to participate in “An Evening with Dan Brown” on May 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brookline High School auditorium. C. Wilkins will create bookplates for new copies of his book. K. Livingston passed around a sign-up sheet for Trustee volunteers for the event.

Friends of the Brookline Library: The Friends annual meeting will be held on June 5, 2019. Dana Brigham of Brookline Booksmith will be interviewed by the new manager. Newsletters have been mailed out.

M Finance Committee: The proposed FY’20 budget was distributed to the Board with a suggested total of \$215,825 based on a 4.5% withdrawal of the 3-year rolling average of the library’s endowment, which is \$214,379. This represents flat funding of all line items with the exception of \$1,000 reduction of the combined Trustee Programming/Brookline Reads budget and two new initiatives under “One-Time Expenses”. The first is for \$10,000 for a re-branding initiative, which is half of the anticipated cost. The plan is to fund the other half in next year’s budget or hopefully to partner with either the Friends of the Brookline Public Library or the Brookline Library Foundation, in which case the one-time expense would be approximately \$7,000. The second is for \$2,500 for unanticipated expenses, as there usually are. A motion was made to approve the budget as suggested. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Old/New Business M Paula Sharaga: A motion was made to approve the trust document for the Paula I. Sharaga Memorial

Children’s Programming Fund. This motion was seconded and passed

unanimously.

M Revolving Fund: A revolving fund has been set up for printing/copying. A motion was made to transfer

up to \$10,000 out of the personnel line to the printer revolving line. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

V. 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 8:56
p.m. A true record. ATTEST

Koinonia I.
Martin-Page
Secretary 2019