

## Trustees Minutes July 9, 2019

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. at the Brookline Village Branch of the Library. Those present were:

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

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

### I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to make a correction to the minutes and then approve the minutes as amended. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Assistant Director of Technology** C. Bignoli thanked the Director for the opportunity to work here in Brookline and for the leadership that she provided. She suggested to the Trustees that going forward in hiring the next candidate for the position that the pay-scale and the amount of vacation time that is given will most likely be a factor in what type of candidate applies. She thanked the Administration Department and colleagues for all of their support and friendships. The Trustees thanked Callan for her hard work and wished her well. She then left to attend the Select Board meeting to request authorizations to hire for several vacant positions. R. MacKenzie was then introduced as the new Interim Assistant Director of Technology.

**Technology** This is a big computer lease renewal year. Forty-five (45) new computers will be deployed and the old ones returned to HP. There is potential for the Ideospace to be located in the Children's Room Rabbit hole, which is only used for programming 8% of the hours that the library is open. A motion was made to authorize the Director to re-purpose any and all areas of the basement to best accommodate the Ideospace. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Town IT Department worked together with Library Admin to craft a budget proposal to increase the library's technology line by \$25,000 per year to support regular replacement of network equipment before it becomes obsolete.

### II. Library Director's Report

**Circulation:** The circulation stats were distributed to the Board. There was a 61% increase from this time last year when the Coolidge Corner Branch was closed for renovation. All traffic and circulation statistics will be inaccurate as we compare the newly renovated CC branch to the circulation at Sussman House, and the increased attendance/circulation at Brookline Village.

**Financial:** Due to Damian's paternity leave happening earlier than planned, the financial report has not been updated. The Director will work with the Assistant Town Administrator, Justin, in August to ensure that there is an accurate report for the September meeting. The FY19 budget closed out successfully and on target, and the Director credited Justin for his guidance.

**Trustee Meetings:** A motion was made and seconded to start the Trustee meetings at 6:15 p.m. This motion passed with 1 abstention.

**This Month in Libraries:** ALA was filled with controversy again this year, with reports of racist behavior on the ALA Council and elsewhere. The conference was held in Washington D.C., which was somewhat fraught due to the national political climate. One of the library world's luminaries, Alison Macrina, of the Library Freedom Institute, has started raising funds and drafting interested parties to build an alternate professional association that would be more nimble and more genuinely aligned with the values of public libraries. Alison trained our staff on how to use best practices to protect our patrons' privacy. More about Alison and the LFI can be viewed at: <https://libraryfreedomproject.org/lfi/>. Librarians organized a protest against the CIA recruiting through the conference, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/06/24/citing-cias-dark-history-librarians-protest-agency-s-recruiting-their-conference>. The decision to rename the Melvil Dewey Medal, due to Mr. Dewey's documented history of racism, misogyny, and anti-semitism, garnered a lot of publicity, but prevailed overwhelmingly in Council. It can be viewed at:

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/80557-ala-votes-to-strip-melvil-dewey-s-name-from-its-top-honor.html>.

Conversations surrounding renaming places and honors from prominent figures of the past are often littered with worries that we are applying "modern values" to people of the past, who were operating within societal "norms" of their time. The Dewey case is particularly notable in that his behavior was so egregious that he was censured by ALA and removed from his post as NY State Librarian by the NY Board of Regents.

**Trustee Committees:** A motion was made to extend the term of the FY19 Trustee Committees until the September Trustee meeting. This motion was seconded and passed with 1 abstention. The Chair asked that all Trustees apply to committees on which they would like to serve and to email them to her by August 15, 2019. The Chair will then inform the Trustees which committees they will be serving on by September 1, 2019. C. Chanyasulkit requested that she stay on the Staff Appreciation Committee. The Director recommended that the Library Hours and Staffing Committee meet before the September Trustees meeting and decide whether to continue with the committee as it stands, or convene a different committee should the next steps require a different skill set or appeal to different members of the Board. A

motion was made to disband the Coolidge Corner Renovation Committee. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Director reminded the Board of Library Trustees that the Strategic Plan expires at the end of FY'21 and that although the title of the plan is FY'18-FY'22, it was intended to be a five-year plan; thus, it expires before FY'22 begins. It took approximately 18 months to plan, draft, and execute this plan. The Director is not certain that it will take that long this time unless the Trustees feel the need to make major changes to the vision or mission statements. A motion was made to reconstitute the Long Range Planning Committee. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Minuteman:** Phil McNulty, Newton Free Library Director, has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Minuteman Library Network. He will begin on August 1, 2019.

**Personnel:** C. Richardson has been promoted to Librarian II at Coolidge Corner. J. Kellndorfer has been promoted to Librarian I in the Main Children's Room. R. MacKenzie has been temporarily appointed Assistant Director for Technology. A. Troha has submitted her resignation, as she was offered a job as the Branch Librarian at the Fox Branch of the Arlington Library. G. Wise will be going out on maternity leave in August, and A. Reed will be serving as Interim Circulation Supervisor, while Gina is out. The Director is working on appointing an Interim Reference Supervisor, as well as working with staff on amending the job descriptions for the Reference Librarian II and the Supervisor of Youth Services III. The Director will also be serving as the Supervisor of Youth Services in the interim. The Director has been appointed to the Executive Board at Minuteman.

**Toys:** Karen Livingston volunteered to drop the toys off to Skinner Auction in Marlboro in August.

**III. Secretary's Report:** The Secretary read the following correspondence: letter from A. Troha thanking the Board of Trustees, and especially the Director, for the opportunity she had in Brookline; a thank you to the library for the Sensitive Subjects displays several compliments on the hanging of the Pride banners; along with one complaint regarding the banners which were hung in all locations. The Assistant Director will forward a list of the upcoming Heritage month schedule to the Trustees.

#### **IV. Old/New Business:**

**October Trustee Meeting:** The Board of Library Trustee meeting will be held on October 7, 2019 due to the Yom Kippur holiday.

**Winter Hours:** A motion was made to authorize the Winter Hours and to close the Main Library on November 10, 2019 for the annual Harry Potter event. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **V. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous

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

Voted: To adjourn at 7:55 p.m.  
A true record. ATTEST

Koinonia I. Martin-Page  
Secretary 2019