

Trustees Minutes

December 10, 2019

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was held on Tuesday December 10, 2019 at 6:36 p.m. at the Main Library. Those present were:

Axelrod Goldman Healy Livingston Lohe Martin-Page (remotely)
Mehta Vanderkay

Also present: S. Slymon, Director; A. Reed, Assistant Library Director; C. Wilkins, Supervisor Technical Services and Collection Development Librarian.

I. Comments from the Public

There were no public comments.

II. Secretary's Report

Approval of minutes

Minutes from the November meeting were not available. The November and December minutes will be approved at the January 2020 meeting.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to share.

Other Items

The timeline for the Library Director's evaluation and templates of forms (e.g., revised committee report and reimbursement forms) will be available in the January meeting folder. These materials also will be distributed to Trustees as email attachments.

III. Executive Session

By roll-call vote, the Board unanimously decided to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of ongoing litigation. Present were the Board, Sara Slymon, Library Director, and Anne Reed, assistant Library Director. By roll-call vote, the Board unanimously decided to exit from Executive Session.

IV. Library Director's Report

Circulation: The November 2019 Circulation report was distributed to the Board.

Financial Report:

The [budget](#) is looking pretty good, we are right on target as the end of the Second quarter approaches. The FY22 budget proposal was submitted on time and awaits Advisory Committee session.

This Month in Libraries:

The avalanche of discussion about library fines as an access and equity issue continues: ['We Wanted Our Patrons Back' — Public Libraries Scrap Late Fines To Alleviate Inequity](#);

Library overdue fines are increasingly a thing of the past. Here's why Phoenix is the latest to do so;

[Eugene Public Library to end overdue fines for children and teens;](#)

[Phoenix Libraries to start eliminating overdue library fees;](#)

[Chicago Libraries' Late Fee Elimination Sparks A 240% Boost in Book Returns.](#)

Long Range Plan:

The Director has begun to solicit ideas for the FY22 action plan from the staff, and has received some good ideas. The Director looks forward to discussing the formation of a Long Range Plan Committee after the New Year.

OPIOID Epidemic Symposium:

The Director attended this valuable day-long symposium held in Devens, MA in early November. Detailed info is here:

<http://guides.masslibsystem.org/opioidepidemic/>

Town Meeting:

Town Administrator, Melvin Kleckner, required that all Senior Dept. Heads attend the first night of Town Meeting. There was nothing regarding the library in the warrants and, thus, no library questions.

Brookline Library Music Association:

The Director has a meeting planned with the Execs of the BLMA.

There seems to have been some mission creep, which the Director would like to talk to them about. If any members of the Board have any information, written or otherwise, if you could share it with the Director she would be most appreciative.

Personnel:

Three excellent candidates have turned us down over compensation and scheduling issues. The Director is pleased to announce our Youth Services Supervisor position has been filled. Christina McTighe will start December 16th and joins us from Alcedena, CA system. She most recently served as Interim Director of the Bacon Library.

We are still trying to fill the Chinese language collection development Librarian position at Coolidge.

Gina Wise has returned from maternity leave and is happy to show photos of her adorable son!

Updates:

The Coolidge Corner Library celebrated its one year anniversary of the reopening after renovations.

Auto renewals will commence January 1, 2020 for all materials with the exception of quick picks and items with holds. At public service desks, the default option for receipts will be email notices rather than print. Currently, self-checks will continue to provide the option to email-print-no receipt.

The Library will be receiving donations to purchase library materials in honor of a couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, from members of a local book group which has been meeting for 40 years.

Recently, a town-wide fight club organized by middle schoolers in Brookline was discovered. Youth Services staff noticed tweens leaving the library after receiving notifications on their cell phones of fights happening at the Pierce School. Youth Services staff met with school administrators who will be informing parents of this situation.

The library is partnering with the Census Bureau for voter empowerment, census training, and opportunities for community members to be counted in the 2020 census. This is also an opportunity to encourage citizens to register to vote.

Two notable retirements of town officials: Andy Papastergian retired November 1st and is now an independent contractor; Gary McCabe is retiring December 31st from the assessor's department.

Macmillan Boycott:

The Director prepared a press release and summary documentation with permission from Kings County Library to edit their press release explaining the Macmillan Boycott.

- M** By roll-call vote the Board unanimously approved the release of the attached Macmillan Boycott press release, after removing sentences on page 2 beginning "By their own admission". The heading of the press release is as follows: "Library Director has unanimous support of the Board of Library Trustees". The Director thanked Colin Wilkins for his research and explanation of the boycott.

PATRIOT ACT: The library has not been served with any court orders since the last meeting

V. Trustee Committee Reports

A. Library Services:

- M** By a unanimous roll-call vote, the amended Photography or Video Recording at the Public Library of Brookline policy was approved pending review by Town Counsel. The committee recommends a "wait and see" attitude to the current movement across the country for libraries to eliminate fines, including the recent decision by the Boston Public Library to eliminate fines on materials for younger patrons. The Director will hold open office hours and an "Ask the Library Director" public event prior to Town meeting and a Twitter event with specific days and hours to be determined.

B. Staff Appreciation Party:

The report from the committee chair was accepted.

C. Executive Board:

The report from the chair of the Board was accepted.

VI. Old and New Business:

A. Carpeting BV youth Services area

M By unanimous roll-call vote the Library Director is authorized to close different areas of the Youth Services rooms over four days to install carpeting.

The old Info desk will have orange, the children's room green, and the staff areas pink tile carpets, similar to the current blue in teen and yellow in tween areas. The Director also reported library policies have been translated into several languages. Interviews for two PT library assistants who speak Mandarin will be scheduled soon.

B. Puja/State House

Thursday April 2, 2020 is Library Legislative Day at the State House. After discussion, the Board asked P. Mehta to email the Board for confirmation on attendance at the event prior to P. Mehta contacting Brookline representatives to arrange a tour and meeting, as at least 6 members of the Board will be expected to represent the Board at the event.

C. New Business

K. Livingston reported the electronic resource, Kanopy's newsletter, states "Brought to you by Brookline Public Library". Also, the recent Ideaspace activities, finger knitting, and soap making were very popular.

J. Vanderkay asked about Library art work on display at the Brookline Village location and whether art currently in storage could be displayed. Brookline Room Librarian Jessica Steytler has been organizing the hidden collections. The Director is working with the Town and Martha Richardson to evaluate the fine art and ephemera to add items to the insurance policy. The Library received a donation from Linda Carlisle and Bob Mast of a John Wilson print that will be displayed in the Brookline Room.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded, and unanimous roll-call vote:

Voted: To adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

A true record.

ATTEST



Koinonia I. Martin-Page

Secretary

2019