

## **Trustees Minutes** January 14, 2019

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was held on Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 6:20p.m. at the Main Library. Those present were:

C. Axelrod V. Goldman R. Healy K. Livingston M. Burstein G. Jones J. Margolis K. Martin-Page C. Lohe J. Vanderkay (Remotely)

Also present: S. Slymon, Director; A. Reed, Assistant Library Director; E. Mitchell, Assistant Library Director for Technology; C. McTighe, Youth Services Supervisor.

### **I Comments from the Public**

There were no public comments.

### **II. Secretary's Report**

**Approval of minutes** M The November minutes and the December minutes – the latter, with one revision re the

spelling of the last name “Pappastergion” - were approved via roll call vote.

**Correspondence** Correspondence from A. Reed – a thank you card to the Board - was shared.

**Other Items** The Board discussed the timeline and 1/17 due date for the Library Director's evaluation.

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

**Circulation:** The December 2019 Circulation report was distributed to the Board. Notably, there has been a 26% circulation increase since the renovation of Coolidge Corner.

**Financial Report:** The [budget](#) looks good, and we are under budget in personnel. Plans are in the works for re-coding due to the time the library has

gone without a business manager. M. Goff (Deputy Town Administrator) consulted with Sara and confirmed that budget is in good shape. The Board discussed the Town of Brookline's new software called "OpenGov."

**This Month in Libraries:** Overdrive was acquired by an investment firm. S. Slymon intends to attend the winter ALA and plans to poll intentions of publishers. 19% of library systems now are boycotting Macmillan.

There has been a budget increase to IMLS. Per K. Livingston's suggestion, S. Slymon raised the idea of a bookplate and thank you note for our legislative representatives (i.e., Kennedy, Markey, Warren) for supporting our libraries and the IMLS. S. Slymon will prepare and present draft to the Board at the next meeting.

**Volunteer Luncheon:** It was a success and was well-attended.

**IDEASPACE:** Designing, planning, and programming for the Ideaspace are going well. A formal launch party is anticipated for March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Branding:** A branding committee was requested by the Library Director, who envisions that the committee should be comprised of Trustees, Staff, the Library Director, and a consultant/designer as liaison. Interested Trustees include V. Goldman, M. Burstein, and K. Livingston. The Board also suggested members from Friends and the Foundation.

**Fine Free Libraries:** A current map/roster of fine free libraries can be found [here](#). The Trustees discussed S. Slymon's spreadsheet compilation of Brookline fines and patrons. S. Slymon shared her goal that the libraries within the Minuteman Network share the same loan rules. A subcommittee of the Minuteman Executive Board will examine the loan rules across the network, with the end goal of bringing those rules into alignment. Brookline libraries now auto-renew loans twice. Our software still does not allow us to prevent draconian lifelong bans when books are not returned for reasons such as deaths, moving, etc. We have one of the lowest fines per capita in the Commonwealth. The Board discussed some history of the rules for loans and fines.

**Personnel:** The Board met and welcomed Christina McTighe on board as the new Youth Services Supervisor. She is doing well and has rolled out a new

collection development model. Rhonda Sussman, PT Library Assistant at Putterham, and Autumn Nutile, a PT Page at Coolidge Corner, have resigned because each accepted offers of FT employment elsewhere.

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

#### **IV. Trustee Committee Reports**

##### **A. Finance Committee:**

C. Lohe reported that the finances are sound and in good shape. We are under budget in many categories. Our endowment is up to \$4.6M as of last calendar year. C. Wilkins was praised for his collection development and money management skills. This past winter was a slow publishing period. Discussed Tee Off budget. There were no big donations (i.e., \$10K or more) recently.

##### **B. Staff Appreciation Party:**

The sign-up sheet for volunteer shifts on 1/31/2020 was circulated.

#### **V. Old and New Business:**

##### **A. Optional Annual One-on-One Meetings with S. Slymon**

Many Trustees have met with S. Slymon already, and there are a few remaining.

##### **B. English Tutoring One Year**

This program has been a phenomenal success. Through it, census services now are being offered to help participants participate in the census and be counted. This program is making meaningful impact in marginalized communities in Brookline.

### **C. Day at the State House Update**

Thursday April 2, 2020 from 9am to 3pm is Library Legislative Day at the State House. Approximately 6-7 Trustees expressed interest in participating.

### **D. Annual Tee Off Proposal**

The Tee Off will take place on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. \$1500 is budgeted already.

### **E. New Business**

Survey: A survey is forthcoming from L. Gellineau, Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations, and needs to be completed by February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Remembering Paula Sharaga: February 15<sup>th</sup> marks the passing of Children's Librarian, Paula Sharaga. S. Slymon plans to host a breakfast for Staff in memory of Paula, scheduling extra Staff so that all can participate. Throughout the month of February, there will be books and displays posted, social media posts, and a guitar sing-along, in Paula's memory.

Skinner Auction Update: The auction has yielded \$1500-\$2500, of which the library will pay a fee of 10% (i.e., the nonprofit rate).

Other: S. Slymon has a new standing desk and new filing cabinets. The previous furniture has been moved to Youth Services. In the process of the move, dinosaur collectibles were discovered in a credenza. A sample piece of the collection was valued at \$200. They were donated to the library by Nancy Wolf.

**M** By roll call vote, with one dissenting vote, the Trustees approved the deaccessioning of the

collection for purposes of benefitting the

library.

## **VI. 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 7:34  
p.m. A true record. ATTEST

Koinonia I.  
Martin-Page  
Secretary 2020