

A **virtual** meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. Those virtually present were:

Burstein      Chanyasukit Healy (6:37-7:34)      Hung      Jones  
Livingston      Lohe      Margolis      Martin-Page      Shakespeare      Vanderkay (6:30)

Also virtually present: S. Slymon, Director; and E. Mitchell, Assistant Director of Technology.

**\*\* All motions were taken by roll call vote.**

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**M** A motion was made to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**II. Library Director's Report**

**Circulation**

Report Attached.

**Financial**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Pw6i\\_vFQmky8ZDoMMMRdV\\_z2xCEsElw9QhfQVI08RMY/edit#gid=1795794717](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Pw6i_vFQmky8ZDoMMMRdV_z2xCEsElw9QhfQVI08RMY/edit#gid=1795794717)

The MBLC voted and Brookline has been re-certified. A waiver was granted. We are expecting a \$20,000 increase in state aid due to robust Federal funding. The Town restored approximately 75% of the budget cut sustained in FY 21. The original cut was approximately \$400,000. The Town has proposed restoring approximately \$290,000 of the cut in FY22, leaving a cut of \$110,000. The Director plans to leave the Facilities Manager position vacant for FY22, which will save \$80,000, and hopes to use state aid to bridge the remaining gap. The extra, and unexpected, \$20,000 of state aid will go a long way towards balancing the budget. The Library Director had a meeting with the Human Services Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on March 1. Six Trustees attended the meeting.

**This month in libraries**

The Director shared several interesting articles. They can be viewed at:

[https://www.alastore.ala.org/interviewbignolistara?\\_zs=u7hhW1&\\_zl=CreQ7](https://www.alastore.ala.org/interviewbignolistara?_zs=u7hhW1&_zl=CreQ7)

<https://www.newsweek.com/libraries-are-essential-service-give-librarians-vaccine-now-opinion-1572082>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/84571-a-reset-for-library-e-books.html>

## **Budget**

The Director will meet with the Select Board on March 16 and receive the agenda the prior Friday. She is expected to give a power point presentation. She also thanked the Board of Library Trustees for their support.

## **Frank Caro Memorial**

The Committee has met and has decided on a memorial bench for Frank Caro at the Coolidge Corner Branch. This memorial bench would, of course, need to be ADA compliant.

## **Police Reform**

The Director reported that there are two committees in Town on reforming policing in Town.

## **Cessation of Publication of Selected Dr Seuss titles**

Brookline libraries will continue to circulate the six titles in question due to their problematic content as they have holds. When they are returned they will be discarded depending on their condition. There has been a disturbing surge of new, ostensibly fraudulent, e-cards which are only requesting these six titles. Some patrons in Minuteman are claiming they are lost and then trying to sell them on e-bay. There are some reports that some patrons are checking them out and destroying them. Colin Wilkins is working on the Collection Development Policy to reframe it through an equity lens, which might help resolve issues around dated, problematic content later.

## **Re-Opening**

Having the staff vaccinated remains the key to re-opening the buildings to the public. The Director also wants to make sure all building supplies and safety measures are in place. The Director is aiming for mid-June to the beginning of July to allow patrons back in the building.

## **Woburn**

The entire executive team and the archivist have resigned in protest of the “political takeover” of their library. In fact, there was no political takeover, but instead, there were overwhelming calls for their resignation from an outraged public. There also were calls for accountability from the state Attorney General, the public, and the Mayor. The majority of the library board has resigned or been removed by the Mayor. There are only 3 out of 9 Trustees left. C. Flaherty has been appointed the Interim Director.

### **III. Old/New Business**

**Bylaw Changes:** There will be a vote for two additions to the bylaws. One is to have an Executive Committee as a Standing Committee. A second is to provide that each Standing Committee shall have a maximum of two members from the Executive Committee, and a third is to appoint a liaison to the Commission for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations at next month’s board meeting. K. Martin-Page sent out the proposed language for the foregoing bylaw amendments to the Board. The Director suggested that the Board reach out to other Libraries to see how their standing committees work, including Executive Committees, as the case may be.

## **Library Committees**

The board discussed the benefits of committee chairs emailing the entire board to notify Trustees of committee meetings, and the board concluded that the best means of doing so would be for individual board members to sign up for meeting notifications via the Town of Brookline Calendar website here:  
<https://www.brooklinema.gov/list.aspx?Mode=Subscribe#calendar>.

### **Anti-Racism Training**

The Director, Chair, and K. Livingston will reach out to the Friends of the Library, as well as the Foundation, to ask them to help fund the Anti-Racism Training. Town of Brookline Chief Procurement Officer, David Geanakakis, will write up an RFP, and when we receive sealed bids, Mr. Geanakakis will open and share them with the Director. The library gets to decide who it wants to hire, and then Mr. Geanakakis would negotiate the contract.

### **Diversity Meeting**

The subcommittee of C. Lohe and K. Martin-Page reminded the board about the invitation from Joan Lancourt, Chair of the Commission on Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations ("CDICR") to attend its next meeting on March 17, 2021 from 6:30-8:30 pm to formally request a BOLT liaison to the CDICR. C. Lohe will represent the Board of Library Trustees at this meeting, to present why the Board of Library Trustees would like to have a liaison to the commission and how the Board thinks this would be mutually beneficial. The Trustees discussed that at the next board meeting, the Trustees still would need to appoint a liaison to the Committee.

### **Election of Officers**

C. Lohe reminded the Board of Library Trustees that the election of officers will be held in May. A Trustee may nominate themselves or another Trustee by letting the Chair know of the nomination prior to the meeting.

### **Bylaws**

As there were not 30 days between last month's meeting and this month's meeting, the bylaws will be voted on at the April meeting.

## **IV. 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 8:02 p.m.

A true record.

ATTEST



Koinonia I. Martin-Page

Secretary

2021