

July 13, 2021 Board of Library Trustees  
Convened: 6:17

Burstein, Margolis, Chanyasukit, Healy, Hung, Lohe, Martin-Page, Shakespeare, Vanderkay, Zelkha

All votes were conducted by roll call.

**M** Vote to establish an online meeting. Unanimously approved.

**Point of order:** Margolis, the chair should not instruct members how to vote.  
Burstein: concedes.

**Public Comment:** no members of the public

**M** Approve the minutes. Unanimously approved.

**Directors Report:**

Re-opening on June 2 went very smoothly. Patrons have been very grateful to be back in the buildings, but overall are not staying long, simply checking email or picking up holds and leaving. Folks have been overwhelmingly compliant with our requests to wear masks. There have been no problems in the Children's Rooms, we were relieved to find out! Thanks to all the Trustees who volunteered to staff the doors for the re-opening.

Attendance has been steady, and circulation is creeping back up. We hope to reintroduce indoor programming and room rental in September.

The extreme rain has presented some serious facilities problems. A branch fell and poked a hole in the roof at Putterham, which caused extensive flooding. The leak was patched, but then leaked again, and was patched again.

Additionally, there has been a long time leak in the Rabbit Hole closet and the Children's Room which was exacerbated by the recent rains. Facilities added non toxic dye around the edges of the porch and the Foundation to try to identify where the leak was coming from.

Someone ran over the gate to the parking garage, and it is being repaired.

We have had MANY compliments on the improvements to the Youth Services level. People are delighted by the color and style, and impressed by the multi lingual signage.

The lighting upgrades at BV should be complete soon. The upgrades are federally grant funded, and both branches were completed years ago.

Becca Bastron has resigned to pursue a career in ELL at a non profit. Cailey Biles has resigned to move home to be closer to family. Jared Walske will be starting as a Librarian I on July 20 in Reference. Kevin Thompson injured himself at work and is out indefinitely. Exit interviews were completed by some departing staff.

The continued consolidation of library vendors into monopolies will likely have a negative impact on our ability to serve our patrons. The purchase of Kanopy by Overdrive, is of particular concern.

### **Trustee Committee Reports:**

#### **Frank Caro Memorial Bench:**

Design and execution of the plaque are complete. The bench has been manufactured, and possibly shipped. The hope is that the project will be completed by August. A card from the Trustees will be put in the Trustees mailbox for all board members to sign, and then Karen Livingston will mail it to Carol Caro.

#### **Friends Liaison:**

Matthew Shakespeare graciously agreed to serve as the Trustee liaison to the Friends moving forward.

Library staff will be assuming responsibility for all ELL programming affiliated with the library.

### **ANNUAL MOTIONS:**

**M** A vote to skip the August, 2021 Trustees Board meeting. Passed unanimously.

### **Old and New Business:**

**Signs:** A patron has requested that we put up signs indicating that the library is opposed to antisemitism.

Discussion ensued regarding adding or removing signs, whether a “catchall” sign was appropriate, whether any sign, left up too long, becomes meaningless and unseen.

Two decisions were made:

- 1) The Library Director would reach out to the patron asking if there were any signs/designs that they had in mind or were aware of, and then signs would be placed at all 3 libraries.
- 2) **M** To form a committee to study issues attendant to the display of signs on public buildings. Passed unanimously.

A committee was formed: the Ad Hoc Committee on Public Expression. Jon Margolis, Regie Healy, and [Sassan Zelkha](#) all agreed to serve to investigate whether the library is responsible to display a sign requested by any member of the public. The idea that someone could ask us to display something hateful and we would have no legal recourse but to do it was broached.

**Masks for the staff:** Kristin Hung presented a proposal to provide the staff with masks branded with the library logo. She showed a variety of options, with pricing.

**M** A motion was made to appropriate up to \$1500 in trust funds to purchase masks. After some discussion the motion was amended to appropriate up to \$1000 in trust funds to purchase masks. Unanimously approved.

**Library Art:** Kristin Hung presented an idea about replacing some of the retired portraits with a commissioned portrait of Florida Ruffin Ridley. Would the library be interested in partnering with the Schools and Town to commission a portrait to reside in the library?

Could a warrant article be introduced to have the Town pay for it?

It was generally agreed that the library would gratefully accept the donation of such a portrait but would not be interested in commissioning, or partnering in the commission of a work of art.

**Committee Assignments:** [Michael Burstein](#) shared the committee assignments with the other meeting documents. At Judith Vanderkays suggestion, the Hours and Staffing Committee will continue to exist.

**M** A motion to adjourn was made and approved unanimously to adjourn at 8:34.

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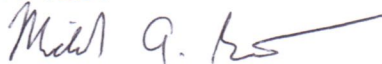
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A true record.

ATTEST



Michael A. Burstein  
Chair, 2021