

Minutes of the Board of Library Trustees, Public Library of Brookline

A virtual meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was convened on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:17 p.m. Those Trustees present were:

Burstein, Cawthorne, Chanyasulkit, Healy, Hung, Livingston, Lohe, Margolis, Martin-Page, Shakespeare, Vanderkay, Zelkha.

Also present were: S. Slymon, Library Director; E. Mitchell, Assistant Director for Technology; and D. Savin, Assistant Director for Administration.

All votes were conducted by roll call vote.

I. Comments from the Public

A. No comments from the public.

II. Secretary's Report

A. No correspondence to report.

M: Lohe moved to accept the minutes. Livingston seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. Library Director's Report

- A. Dr. Carter's visit to begin the library anti-racism training went well. Positive feedback has been received from the Foundation, Trustees, and all departments. Dr. Carter will be data gathering for the first quarter. He does not expect to return in-person until this summer.
- B. Welcome to Danielle Savin, the new Assistant Director for Administration. Savin comes to Brookline from the Acton Library where she served as Director. She started in Brookline on February 14th.
- C. Brookline is planning to lift the mask mandate this Saturday, March 12th.
 - a. The library will likely follow suit and lift restrictions Saturday as well. Some rules and regulations will be kept in place in the children's areas because children 5 years and under still cannot be vaccinated. The library will release a press release about the differences in regulations in children's areas, which will likely include required masks during programming but not normal library use. Story Hour will hopefully continue to be held in Hunneman Hall, since it is much larger than the Rabbit Hole. Masks and additional PPE will be optional for staff and provided by the library.
 - b. Capacity limits will likely be lifted. Adult spaces have never hit capacity.
 - c. There will be no in-person programming until April. Members of the public have expressed displeasure about this, but it is unavoidable.

Programming has to be planned far in advance, so it will not immediately go back to an in-person model when the mask mandate is lifted.

- d. Drs. Hung and Chanyulsulkit discussed the role of mask mandates in protecting more vulnerable community members who cannot get vaccinated. Chanyulsulkit acknowledged the effectiveness of one-way masking, especially with a KN95 mask.
- e. Slymon asked the Trustees to allow the library to follow the town's guidance, with some exceptions. Burstein reminded the Board that they voted in Spring 2020 to give Slymon full authority to take whatever measures she felt necessary during the pandemic. Slymon will keep the Trustees updated of any changes.

M: Lohe moved for the Board to continue to give the library director full authority to determine and enforce any rules necessary for public health, as the director sees fit. Margolis seconded. Passed unanimously.

IV. Trustee Committee Reports

- A. Strategic Planning Committee
 - a. The Strategic Planning Committee Report was not available at this meeting and will not be voted on. The Report will be ready for the April meeting.
- B. Staff Appreciation Committee
 - a. Hung and Chanyulsulkit put together the staff appreciation gifts, which will be distributed to all staff. They included a \$35 Trader Joe's gift card, a thank you poem, and chocolates.

V. Old and New Business

- A. Update from Anti-Racism Training Initiative
 - a. The three boards (Trustees, Foundation, and Friends) put forth a total of \$100,000 for the initiative, but Dr. Carter only ended up charging \$85,000. There was discussion of what to do with the remaining \$15,000. Trustees would like the money to be used to further the anti-racism training initiative through supplemental trainings/materials rather than be refunded to the boards. Trustees need to revisit the initial proposal with the other two boards to amend the proposal.
- B. FY23 Action Plan Vote
 - a. No vote today.
- C. Pandemic News/Decisions
 - a. Masking and Capacity Limits already discussed during the Director's Report.
 - b. Room Reservations will begin again soon with the mask mandate lifting. Slymon will release an official date shortly.

D. Friends Book Sale

- a. Now accepting donations again. Reminder that the only books thrown out are damaged, moldy, or factually inaccurate. Other books not selected for the book sale are donated and redistributed to the community through charitable organizations.

VI. Remarks for the Good of the Order

- A. Burstein informed the Board he is appointing a Nominations Committee to find candidates for the officers of the Board (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer). Livingston and Chanyasukit will run the Committee. They will report at the May meeting.
- B. Burstein reminded the Board about upcoming town-wide elections in May.

VII. Adjourn

M: Vanderkay moved to adjourn. Margolis seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:06pm.
A true record.

ATTEST



Koinonia I. Martin-Page
Secretary
2022