

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, June 13, 2023, at 6:24 PM.

Present: Goleman, Hung, Lohe, Margolis, Martin-Page, Vanderkay, Vogt, Zelkha.

Absent: Burstein, Chanyasulkit, Fredkin, Livingston.

Trustees voted to convene the meeting.

Also present: Library Director, A. Hirst; Assistant Director to Administration, D. Savin, Julie KellIndorfer (YS Supervisor), Sarah Durkin (Circulation Supervisor), Batia Bloomenthal (Putterham Supervisor).

All votes were conducted by roll call vote.

- I. Comments from the Chair.
 - A. Margolis is acting chair for the meeting.
 - B. Margolis at the last meeting had taken the stance that libraries should be neutral. He considered Goleman's response of "neutral" can be a position, and would like to state "non-partisan" may be a more accurate term.
 - C. Hirst introduces Sarah Durkin as the Library's new Circulation Supervisor. She is excited to be a part of the library community.
- II. Comments from the Public (5-minute limit).
 - A. No comments
- III. Batia Bloomenthal presents a Summary of the Putterham's Accessibility Kits for Neurodiverse Patrons.
 - A. Hirst introduces Batia Bloomenthal to address FY23 year-long action items of creating accessibility kits for neurodiverse patrons. A staff member recommended this as a way to welcome and help neurodiverse patrons feel comfortable at the library. This was narrowed down to children and adult patrons who are neurodiverse and/or have sensory sensitivities.
 - B. Putterham challenges: Noise carries easily, too bright in the day, no private study areas.
 - C. Research shows tools used to control environments reduce anxiety in neurodiverse patrons and can also assist in social interactions.

- D. Nov 2022, Grant use with Youth Services (“YS”) staff, to add to all three locations, Godine fund.
- E. 2 Circulating kits at Putterham. 1 for library use, 1 for home use. Once use has been shown to be helpful, the Library would like to have more at each branch. \$1141.08 on kits.
- F. The kits provide: Noise reducing headphones, light sensitivity glasses, fidget toy, pin art set, weighted lap pad, tactile cushion, tactile brush, bubble wrap toy, sensory desk toy, kick bags.
- G. Thanks to Putterham staff, YS staff, tech services staff, and Bernice Godine Fund
- H. Margolis would like to thank Batia for her work at the Library, as she will be leaving in August. Batia thanks everyone for the opportunities she has had at the Library.

IV. Julie Kellendorfer presents on Summer Reading

- A. Theme this year is Find Your Voice. Why summer reading: Encourages reading as a lifelong habit, incentivizes reluctant readers, prevents “summer reading loss,” reinforces reading for fun, boosts library attendance and community engagement.
- B. Last year stats: 2322 spins on wheels, 5907 hours of reading, 21 programs, 1231 attendees, 844 people registered.
- C. Goals: Celebrate reading, increase use of libraries, engage with the Brookline community.
- D. Kids: 0-9 have the reading goal of 20 hours, while earning spins on the prize wheel. Tweens, teens, and adults: no sign up needed, spin the wheel for checking out an item, limit one person per day.
- E. Dates: Program starts June 20th, ends August 19th, as well as various events available for details on the Library calendar.
- F. Budget: Total of \$9500 spent from the Trustees and the Friends.
- G. Hirst explains part of the outreach is teaming up with Brookline Public Schools, who serve meals to those who are food insecure, providing free books to people who pick up meals and join at their kick-off event.

V. Secretary’s Report

- A. Martin-Page asks that the minutes from the May meeting be approved.
 - 1. Motion: Lohe makes a motion to approve all the minutes and it is seconded. It passes unanimously.
- B. There was correspondence from the Rockland Trust
- C. Hirst and some of the Trustees received letters regarding the Black Lives Matter and Prides flags outside the Library locations, arguing for them to be taken down.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- A. Lohe gives report and discusses how the endowment balance has decreased with the market, and bills have been paid.

VII. Library Director's Report

- A. Savin presents stats: There was difficulty collecting circulation stats because the servers were being upgraded.
- B. Digital lending went down as Hoopla loans have dropped, as have Kanopy, but not as drastically. The Library has included a new limit for the amount of Hoopla uses per month, which has affected stats. Overdrive is still popular. See Documents for details.
- C. On budget for this year, the Library had extra money for utilities. This has been used for fixing the curtains in Hunneman Hall, buying new desks for YS staff, and buying appropriately sized furniture for The Rabbit Hole.
- D. New Hires: Sarah Durkin (the Circulation Supervisor), Courtney Hesslein (Executive Assistant to the Director), as well as internal promotions, including Jingting Long and Elissa Martel. PT LA Jackson Matthews will be working out of class full time in the Reference Department. Amanda Hirst will temporarily serve as Reference Supervisor.
- E. Resignations: Roy MacKenzie will be leaving the Library after 10 years of service in June, Batia Bloomenthal will be leaving after 24 years at the Library in August. Both positions are under recruitment.
- F. The garden has been planted out front of the library for the Pollinator's Path
- G. Public art project- Turkeys around town. Hirst met with organizers, who would like to place a turkey near each of the Library Branches.
- H. Motion is made and seconded to approve the placement of the Turkeys near each of the branches. The motion passes unanimously.
- I. Lohe questions library turnover. Hirst says compensation is a factor, as well as lifestyle choices and wanting changes in their careers.
- J. Hiring challenges: interview before position closes as many applicants are accepting other job offers, more applicants from private sector, and people who want a job that aligns with their values.
- K. Margolis acknowledges Dr. Carter's report. Hirst explains Zoom sessions for staff have been scheduled in July to go over the report as well as sessions for Boards.
- L. Hirst discusses plan to buy an Automated Materials Handling System that will help sort materials when returned.
- M. A motion is made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. It passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Minutes drafted by Carrie Zuttermeister.

A true record.

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Koinonia I. Martin-Page". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Koinonia I. Martin-Page

Secretary

2023-2024