

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

A hybrid meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library was convened on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:16 PM.

Present: Burstein; Chanyasulkit; Goleman; Hung; Livingston; Lohe; Margolis; Martin-Page; Vanderkay; Vogt; Zelkha

Absent: Fredkin

Also present: Library Director, A. Hirst; Assistant Director to Administration, D. Savin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director, C. Hesslein

Trustees voted to convene the meeting.

All votes were conducted by roll call vote.

### I. Comments from the Chair

- A. Vogt arrives in-person at 6:18pm.
- B. Burstein asks Trustees to sign a note for Coolidge Corner Library Assistant Kenny Kim to thank him for his kind message in his application for the Romanov fund; each Trustee present signs the card.
- C. Burstein welcomes Courtney Hesslein (Executive Assistant to the Library Director) and Kaden Casanave (Library IT Support Specialist) who recently joined the Library Administration as full-time staff members and explains their roles.
- D. Zelkha arrives via Zoom at 6:39pm.

### II. Comments from the Public (5 minute limit)

- A. One comment from Monique Richardson; Monique introduced herself as she may become the Senior Center's liaison with the Library.

### III. Secretary's Report

- A. Martin-Page asks if there are any questions about the Secretary's Report. Vogt questions the record of her roll call votes from last meeting; Vogt's roll call votes updated by Martin-Page.
- B. Hung motions for vote to approve minutes; Lohe seconds. Minutes are approved.
- C. Martin-Page provides correspondence update; Lohe receives two \$500 checks for Friends of the Brookline Public Library.

### IV. Treasurer's Report

- A. State Street has not yet provided final numbers for FY23, however expenses were under budget.
- B. FY23 numbers will be presented at September's meeting.

### V. Library Director's Report

- A. Hirst shares that all libraries will be closed on July 19, 2023 for staff development.
- B. Hirst provides an overview of her experience at the ALA conference in Chicago; Board members discuss ideas for potential action items related to events Hirst attended, such as collaboration with the Brookline Housing Authority. Hirst confirms that this will be one of the FY24 Action Items brought to the Board in September. Other ideas include potentially partnering with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the National Book Foundation, and First Book initiative.
- C. Hirst informs the Board that she was interviewed by Brookline.News to discuss the fine-free policy; confirms the Library will do more with social media to get the message out.
  - 1. Board members explain actions they took to get fine-free message out to the public; Burstein encourages all Trustees to share news widely.
- D. Hirst informs the Board that FY23 municipal budget ended the year right on budget.
- E. Hirst provides staffing updates: 2 new Administrative staff members and 1 new Library Assistant joined at Brookline Village; 1 part-time Library Assistant at Coolidge Corner resigned due to moving out of state.
- F. Hirst confirms that there were no court orders served since the last meeting.
- G. Hirst provides an update on the Library's partnership with the school meal summer program; mentions that the Friends purchased materials to be given out at two upcoming school meal events.
- H. Hirst informs the Board that new library cards were created that replace the Minuteman Library logo with The Public Library of Brookline one.
- I. Board members provide positive feedback about the library they recently experienced or received
- J. Livingston asks to expand the pollinator garden next year; Hirst confirms.

VI. Trustee Committee Reports

- A. Vanderkay and Lohe attended Friends of the Brookline Public Library's annual meeting.

VII. Old Business

- A. No discussion.

VIII. New Business

A. Fine-Free Banners

- 1. Hirst asks the Board for permission to hang banners announcing that the Public Libraries of Brookline are now fine-free libraries. Livingston makes a motion; Goleman seconds.
- 2. General discussions proceed. The first discusses the governing process for banner / signage hanging. Burstein reiterates that the Library Director asks the Board for permission to hang and / or remove banners / signage and then the Board votes on it.
- 3. The second discussion revolves around the potential impact of removing the current banners (Black Lives Matter and Pride banners), the

reiteration that those banners will be removed, and brainstorming about how the Libraries can outwardly display their continued support for these communities moving forward. Margolis reiterates his position that the Library should be neutral in these matters.

4. The Board discusses the idea that the fine-free banners can be translated into the most spoken languages in Brookline to promote equity and inclusion.
5. Martin-Page asks Hirst to share fine-free banner designs with the Board. Hirst agrees.
6. Margolis moves the previous question. The motion passes unanimously.

B. 3% Wage Increase for Part-time Non-Union Staff

1. Hirst asks Trustees to vote on the motion to approve a 3% wage increase for part-time non-union staff. Lohe motions; Goleman seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

IX. Remarks for the Good of the Order

- A. Burstein reminds the Board about the upcoming Q&A session with Dr. Carter to further discuss the Racial Equity study.
- B. Burstein motions to adjourn the meeting; Livingston seconds. The motion passes unanimously. The Board will next meet on September 12, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Minutes drafted by Courtney Hesslein

A true record.

ATTEST



Koinonia I. Martin-Page

Secretary

2023-2024