

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, December 10, 2024 at 6:21 p.m.

Present: Fredkin, Goleman, Hung, Livingston, Lohe, Margolis, Martin-Page, Vanderkay, Vogt, Zelkha (present after roll call to convene)

Absent: Burstein, Chanyasulkit

Also Present: Library Director, A. Hirst; Assistant Director for Administration, D. Savin

Motion to convene, J. Margolis; second, C. Lohe.
All present vote yes.

All votes were conducted by roll call.

I. Comments from the Chair

- A. Director Amanda Hirst's last day is Dec. 13, 2024.
- B. Chair wishes her all the best.
- C. Yields time to public comments

II. Comments from the Public (3-minute limit)

- A. Batia Bloomenthal introduces herself as a Brookline resident and former PLB librarian for 27 years. She announces her intention to run for office in May as a Library Trustee.

III. Secretary's Report

- A. Nov. 12, 2024 Minutes
 - 1. Vogt makes corrections to the November 12 minutes.
 - 2. Lohe makes motion to approve edited minutes; Vanderkay seconds
 - 3. Trustees who are present vote unanimously to approve November 12, 2024 minutes.
- B. Nov. 25, 2024 Special meeting Minutes
 - 1. Vanderkay makes motion to approve; Margolis seconds
 - 2. Trustees who are present vote unanimously to approve
- C. Correspondence
 - 1. Goleman confirms that all Trustees received letter from former librarian Nina Rabkina via email.

IV. Treasurer's Report: No news

V. Interim Library Director's Report

- A. Statistical: 2 resignations; 1 hire of part-time librarian; a search is in progress for an executive assistant to the Director
- B. Financial

1. Savin informs Board that work has begun on FY 2026 budget and that she will be meeting with Town Administrator for Finance. Approval occurs in May.
2. In response to Trustee questions about budget-related advocacy, Savin states that it will be a tough budget season with BPS over budget by \$6-8 million.
3. Savin states that Town wants to fund Library at MBLC level in fulfillment of the Municipal Appropriation Requirement. MAR levels increase by approx. 2.5% each year, about \$40,000, which mostly goes to salaries.

VI. **Trustee Committee Reports**

- A. DEI, Advocacy, Staff Appreciation do not report.
- B. Trustee Development Committee
 1. TDC Chair Martin-Page reviews the committee's goal: to develop a written orientation plan for new trustees which also serves as a refresher for veteran trustees.
 2. Orientation plan components: manual for new trustees; library tours; MBLC Pocket Handbook; outline for a new trustee's first Board meeting (May)
 3. Martin-Page concludes her presentation by directing Trustees to TDC folder where there is a draft of the plan she has reviewed and requests that suggested edits be sent to J. Goleman and C.Lohe by Jan. 6, 2025. The folder link:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1P4QBJb_AlRHetG6z0Uri7KZTO6nRGq-

VII. **Old Business**

- A. Ad hoc committee to hire outside consultant
 1. Hung explains that she would like BOLT to consider the executive committee recommendation to hire an outside consultant who would evaluate the Library at the systemic level and would have access to staff, administration and Trustees. A small ad hoc committee including staff, Interim Director and a Trustee is suggested.
 2. Discussion follows. Questions by J. Margolis and S. Zelkha regarding the consultant's brief are addressed by the Interim Director who suggests that the ad hoc committee write a Request for Information letter to potential consultants that would frame the general reasons and goals for the consult.
 3. Martin-Page suggests Maura Deedy as a possible consultant.
 4. The discussion moves to consideration of how large and encompassing the ad hoc committee to hire a consultant should be, whether representatives of the Friends, Foundation and public should be included. Hung agrees with those, including J. Vanderkay, who suggest that the ad hoc committee remain small, but that the Friends and Foundation be kept informed of developments by their BOLT liaisons.
 5. There is some discussion about whether the consultancy needs to be preceded by the hiring of a workplace investigator. Pros and cons considered.

6. Hung states that she wants to keep a consideration of recent Library conflicts connected to the question of how to move forward. She will confer with Interim Director Savin on forming a small ad hoc committee by the January 14 BOLT meeting.

VIII. **New Business:** None

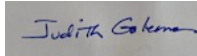
IX. **Remarks for the Good of the Order**

- A. Hung thanks A. Hirst and D. Savin for working together on the transition.
- B. Margolis makes a motion to thank Amanda Hirst for her service; Lohe seconds. All present vote unanimously to approve.

X. **Adjourn**

- A. Motion to adjourn by Margolis; Vogt seconds. All present vote unanimously to approve at 7:57 p.m.

Attested



Judith Goleman
Secretary