

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation and Administrative Agency

Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Adams Street Branch Library
690 Adams Street, Dorchester, MA 02122

MINUTES

A Meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston as a Corporation and Administrative Agency was held at the Adams Street Library, 690 Adams Street, Dorchester, MA 02122 at 3:00 p.m..

Present at the meeting were: Chair, Robert Gallery and Vice-Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz and Trustees: Ben Bradlee, Priscilla Douglas, and Linda Dorcena Forry. Zamawa Arenas, Jabari Asim, Cheryl Cronin, John Hailer, and Byron Rushing were not present. Also present were: David Leonard, President, Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board, along with BPL staff and members of the public.

Chair Robert Gallery called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. and addressed the order of business, opening the meeting with a roll call of the Trustees who were present for the record. He noted that the date change of the meeting was a conflict for some Trustees due to prior commitments. He thanked everyone for attending and invited Adams Street Branch Librarian, Kate Brown to give welcome remarks.

Ms. Brown welcomed the Trustees and the community to the library. She thanked the Trustees for their support for the anticipated renovation and noted that it is a well-attended, well-loved branch by the community. She highlighted some of the popular programs that are offered (i.e. vegan cooking classes, painting, wellness and health classes, and several afterschool children's programs). She introduced her staff and thanked them for their commitment and service to the patrons everyday. She thanked the Friends group who are deeply involved, for their ongoing support of the branch. Next, she introduced Grace Hebard, President of the Adams Street Friends for over 25 years. Ms. Hebard thanked everyone for coming and noted that the Friends group was established in 1994 by a group of mothers to encourage and support the children's programming due to the lack of a children's librarian back then. She was delighted to be a fixture at the branch over the years and with the design of the new library. She noted it is bittersweet to the community to say goodbye to the staff for a couple of years during the renovation.

Mr. Gallery thanked the staff and the Friends for their hard work every day and then moved to the next matter of business, noting that due to a lack of quorum, voting would have to be suspended until a later date.

Mr. Leonard began the President's report by introducing Kurt Mansperger, the new Chief Technology Officer. Mr. Mansperger addressed the group by giving a brief background of his experience and noted he was happy to be at the BPL. Next, Mr. Leonard highlighted that from a Communications front, the BPL has had a strong presence in the Press. Noting the new concept and renovation of the Map Center Tea Lounge was being well received. The restaurant is in the soft opening phase but will invite the Trustees for the official grand re-opening.

Mr. Leonard noted that this is a busy season of programming and highlighted the upcoming Toulouse Lautrec exhibition that the BPL is co-hosting at the Museum of Fine Arts next month. A BPL library card can grant free entry for a family into the MFA for a limited time. As a quick update on active capital

projects, the special collections were moved out of the space and that project is well underway. There was a hard hat tour at Dudley last week and he was happy to report that project is on schedule and on budget. Regarding the FY20 budget, the BPL had submitted both their operating and capital budgets. He noted they will bring to the Trustees for a formal vote at the annual meeting. Mr. Leonard reminded everyone that Marathon preparations are underway and the banners were revealed yesterday. The BPL's fifteen sponsored runners have raised approximately ninety six thousand dollars (\$96,000) collectively. The team was represented by Mr. Greg Tobin. Mr. Leonard and Ms. Ellen Donaghey thanked him and gave him a gift of a BPL marathon shirt to run in. Ms. Donaghey added that they are still raising funds through an app called Crowd rise.

Next, Mr. Leonard invited Katie Faulkner from the architectural firm NADAAA to present the design plan for the Adams Street Library. Ms. Faulkner began with a little background on their Boston-based firm noting this renovation is quite possibly the most important project they have ever had and they are thrilled to be chosen. She explained the timeline. They are closing in on the construction phase and was hopeful to go out for construction bids by April 12th. The library is expected to close in July and anticipate the completed project to take approximately twenty four months. She reviewed the building materials and renderings pointing out some of the key features, i.e. the library will be doubling in size, the addition of more meeting rooms, and dedicated spaces for teens, adults, and children. She highlighted the ecofriendly roof system that will help collect rain water to aid with the watering of the passive rain garden.

Moving along, Mr. Gallery discussed that the Board was short one Board member for a quorum and therefore couldn't take any votes on the agenda. He expressed his disappointment but would ensure a rescheduled meeting as soon as possible as not to jeopardize any contracts.

Mr. Leonard gave an update to the Governance and Development Committee. He confirmed the Steering Committee agreed to continue for an additional six months, under the leadership of Michael Keating to help with the launch of the BPL Fund and Gala. He was happy to announce that the new Executive Director of the BPL Fund was selected after an exhaustive search and will be starting on April 8th. He noted that an official announcement will follow. The next big milestone is the BPL Gala which is scheduled for Friday, June 7th. He thanked the leadership of the Leventhal Map Center and Connie Chin for their collaboration and support, with whom the BPL wouldn't have been able to do without them. Mr. Gallery added that through lots of hard work, they currently have the support and commitment of 9 co-chairs for the Gala. Each have committed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) making this one of the highest visibility galas in the city this spring. Mr. Leonard reminded the Board the areas of need are: system-wide programming, further support for the entirety of our collections, digitization and access efforts, and lastly, the ability to be innovative and investing in capital needs of the McKim building (particularly the 3rd floor).

All of the 501(c)(3) partners are in the final stages of their MOUs. In part, under the new Executive Director donors will no longer be confused as to where to give a donation. Mr. Leonard added that the Governance committee is in the final stage of a nomination for the Board to present to the Mayor for consideration. Ms. Douglas commended the work of those working on the Gala in such a short time. Mr. Leonard thanked Ms. Connie Chin for her leadership and collaboration, and noted Louisa Stephens of the

Associates, David Vieira of the City-Wide Friends, and Grace Hebard from the branch Friends group, as all are represented here today and all of their support is appreciated.

Mr. Gallery asked if there was any new business for which there was none. Mr. Gallery asked if there was any Public Comment.

Ms. Elissa Cadillic, President of AFSCME, thanked the Trustees on behalf of their membership for passing the collective bargaining contract. She expressed her concerns over the press coverage of the renovated restaurant and the emphasis on the alcohol. She noted that The Catered Affair said they wouldn't use stock carts during business hours and they have continually done so. She asked for WGBH's schedule to be more accessible to the welcome desk staff to better assist with patron's questions. She also brought the detail of the windows in the Adams design plan as troublesome. She mentioned it was an issue with light sensitivity after other recent renovations and wanted to be sure they are taking that into consideration.

David Vieira, member of the City-Wide Friends noted that it was a good opportunity to announce the launching of their \$24,000 branch site grant. He explained the deadline is April 15th with the awardee announced on May 21st at their annual meeting. He noted that the Trustees are all invited to attend.

Last, Elissa Birdseye, Research Librarian at Adams Street Branch urged that the Trustees try to reschedule their vote so as not to delay their collective bargaining contract. She appreciated their attention to that.

With no further business or comments, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela Carver
Clerk of the Board of Trustees