

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

**Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee
Thursday September 12, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Grove Hall Branch Library
41 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Grove Hall Branch Library, 41 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121 at 2:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were: Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Committee Members: Sarah-Ann Shaw and Che Madyun, Friends of the Dudley Branch Library. Also attending were Pete Coco, Assistant Neighborhood Services Manager, Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services/Branches, Allen Knight, Dudley Branch Librarian, and Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Project Manager. Also present was Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming and addressed the first item of business: Approval of the Meeting Minutes. A motion was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve the Minutes of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee meeting held on May 21, 2019.

Ms. Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services/Branches gave an update on the Dudley Branch Library Renovation. She noted construction was steadily moving forward and anticipated that staff would be moving back into the branch in late winter. She expected to have the date for the public closer to three months out. The exact month could not be determined at this point, but told the Committee they should expect it to be spring 2020. She stated the BPL communications team would be sure to publicize this to the public via the BPL’s website, social media outlets, and the local community newspaper, The Banner. The committee members asked a few questions regarding a possible preview night for the Friends group and/or the possibility of hosting a fundraising event. Ms. Foley explained there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony and conversations for a fundraising event closer to the opening.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz gave a brief review of the budget (which was not on the agenda but noted the carry over figure from last year along with the annual distribution funds available of \$96,020). She calculated expenses and determined the annual distribution funds available for programming was \$88,942 for the upcoming year. With the balance available known, they began to review the proposals.

Ms. Silva-Collins presented the proposals so the Committee could discuss and vote to approve them. Ms. Silva-Collins distributed a new chart listing the 9 proposals along with previous attendance charts for previous sessions. Ms. Silva-Collins reported on, and the Committee

discussed, each grant proposal. All of the programs were approved, two had approvals based on contingencies of the recommendations discussed with the Program Manager and Committee members. (Haley House and Mindful Based Stress Reduction as noted below).

1. Akiba Abaka/ArtsEmerson: Play Reading Book Club, a theater literacy initiative led by teaching artists from Arts/Emerson 2019/2020. Eliminating the youth component for now, there will be four plays to be held at Vine Street Community Center and Egleston Branch for \$6,000.
2. Corey Evans/Boch Center: Youth Arts for Social Change Summit, a youth targeted event at Hibernian Hall for \$6,500.
3. Bonita Jones: Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, a course in stress reduction techniques for greater health awareness and improved well-being for adults being held at the UUUM (First Church). Asked for \$6,000, committee approved with contingency for improved administrative responsibilities to the program director which include: better community outreach, meeting program report deadlines, and a balanced ratio of new and returning attendees.
4. John Kordalewski: The Makanda Project – Jazz Music Programming. The Committee voted to approve funding for this popular live music program that features nine week sessions offered in both fall and spring by Makanda Project held in the Bruce Bolling Building for \$7,000.
5. Joel Mackall and Reidren Business Group: Tracing Our Roots workshop. Students learn how to begin family history research and genealogy searches. A return for this highly successful program. The instructor will offer two series, one for beginners and one for intermediates. They will consist of four weekly sessions and a one-day workshop, held at the Freedom House for \$3,300.
6. Joel Mackall and Reidren Business Group: How to Use a Smart Phone business skills at the Freedom House. This was approved for \$2,670 for eight sessions over fall and spring.
7. Ricardo Monroy/Haley House, Inc: Take Back the Kitchen Cooking Classes, a program for seniors and families offering easy culinary recipes and would be held in the Haley House Teaching Kitchen in Dudley approved for \$6,000. The Committee approved funding for the family session only and offered suggestions for community input. Suggested targeting millennials or multicultural offerings rather than the senior session; which was determined to be unsuccessful and was not approved. The funding would be adjusted accordingly to offer family sessions only or include a new target group as described.
8. Carlos Vargas: Piano Instruction Classes: Offers introductory piano playing and music theory instruction. A strong desire among patrons exists for this program. The Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music will be the host site for this program. It was approved for \$6,000. Ms. Silva-Collins noted a new substitute instructor was identified.
9. Aaron Devine/With Dedication: Writing Poems To and For Other People. To be held at the Egleston Branch, Grove Hall Branch, or Northeastern Crossing for \$2,500. Mr. Devine

previously taught a successful Memoir Writing course funded by the FATC. This course will run five consecutive Saturdays in May and June.

Ms. Silva-Collins explained she would try to encourage a minimum of one print ad for each program in addition to The Banner's online calendar.

Next, the Committee reviewed the funds. Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the administrative fees. She noted there was only one ad for The Banner. She discussed her requests for refreshments and incidentals and suggested \$8,000 to cover these costs. The committee discussed and decided to allocate \$5,000 along with \$5,000 to the branch. The final budget for programming (with all suggested adjustments) left a carryover balance of \$32, 972.

Next, the Committee discussed the 2019-2020 meeting schedule. The Committee agreed to meet on March 5 at 2:00 p.m. and June 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Grove Hall Branch library. The Clerk will confirm the availability of the location and send out confirmation notices to the Committee members. She noted the dates may be subject to change and will be posted accordingly.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz noted she was appointed to the Boston Arts Academy Board and was going to connect them with Ms. Silva-Collins for potential program participation in the future from the Senior Students or Faculty.

With no further business or public comment, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R. Carver