

## 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, September 10, 2024, at 6:18 PM.

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

Absent: Chanyasulkit; Fredkin

Also present: Library Director, A. Hirst; Assistant Director for 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. Hung thanks Trustees and Library staff for attending Brookline Day and the sorter launch / ribbon cutting ceremony

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

- A. Margolis thanks Amanda and Library staff for July's Staff Development Day; states that he was energized by the enthusiasm of the day and that he was gratified to see all staff included, particularly the Custodians, and to see staff members demonstrate appreciation for the Custodial staff; Zelkha thanks Amanda for doing Library card sign-up at Brookline Day
- B. No members of public present

### III. Secretary's Report

#### A. Minutes

- 1. Burstein makes a motion to approve the July 2024 meeting minutes; Margolis seconds; Board votes unanimously to approve the minutes

#### B. Correspondence

1. No correspondence received

C. Other items

1. No discussion

IV. Treasurer's Report

A. Other

1. Lohe distributed to all Board members the final figures from FY24, which fell well under budget; Lohe outlines philosophy for budgeting generously to encourage activity and innovation

V. Library Director's Report

A. Martin-Page asks about long-standing staff who have recently resigned, particularly the Children's Librarian and Teen Services Librarian and asks for thoughts about roles being filled; Hirst explains that the roles will be filled and that the Select Board will be reviewing the authorization to hire for both roles tonight (9/10/24); Select Board will be recognizing Robin Brenner's contributions to the Town of Brookline during this meeting; Hirst read out to Board Bernard Greene's statement that he will make during the Select Board meeting

B. In order to honor Robin Brenner's contributions and tenure, the Board will publicly acknowledge her; Burstein to craft a statement on behalf of the Board; Burstein makes a motion to formally and heartily thank Robin for her 18 years of contribution to PLB; Vanderkay seconds; the Board unanimously votes yes

VI. Trustee Committee Reports

A. No discussion

VII. Old Business

A. No discussion

VIII. New Business

#### A. Bylaw Change - Trustee Committees

1. Hung asks for questions or comments about proposed changes shared in July; Margolis asks about proposal for Advocacy Committee to work with Advisory Committee; mentions that in the past it was staff that worked directly with the Advisory Committee; notes issue with Library Functions Committee dealing with two different things (physical space and metaphysical space), suggests that it not be voted on tonight and that Chair create ad hoc committee to figure out alternatives
2. Lohe offers alternative to vote on all changes with the understanding that if any changes prove unworkable, Board can vote to revert changes; Hung clarifies that Board can vote again as there is no annual quota
3. Goleman moves to approve the proposed amendments to the by-laws sent by Chair on July 31, 2024; Livingston seconds; Board votes to approve the amended by-laws; new by-laws will be added to PLB's website
4. Hung asks Board members to return committee preference form by Friday, September 13, 2024; committees and chairs will be assigned by September 24, 2024; Hung explains that this year Board will pilot appointing a DEI person within each committee to be specifically tasked with keeping in mind and advocating for issues of equity and inclusion in our libraries; Hung to keep in mind Zelkha's suggestion about having 6 members on each committee

#### B. Trust Fund Stipulations

1. Hirst explains to the Board that some of the restricted trust funds they oversee pose challenges to utilizing the funding based on the way

stipulations are worded; Hirst provides an example of a trust fund that stipulates money needs to be used for the purchase of books on tape, even though the Library no longer purchases books on tape; Hirst informs Board that she asked Town Counsel for opinions on what we can do in these circumstances, particularly as it relates to PLB's increasing digital and electronic collections

a) Hirst shares with the Board the Town Counsel's legal opinion –  
“Unless the gift instruments are specific as to the definition of a ‘book,’ in a way that would exclude an ebook, it will be in the reasonable discretion of the Trustee to determine what constitutes a book. Given the library's shift to purchasing electronic material, it seems reasonable to include e-books within the definition of ‘books.’ We would caution against an overly expansive definition, however (for example, including magazines or other kinds of e-materials).”

2. Hirst asks Board to accept Town Counsel's interpretation of trust fund stipulations
3. Margolis proposes Board postpones this to next month to allow time to define book analogues; Burstein makes a motion to support Town Counsel's 7/15/24 legal opinion on trust funds stipulations; Livingston seconds; Board votes unanimously to support

#### C. FY25 Action Items

1. Hirst informs Board about the process for sourcing ideas for annual Action Items, then reviewing proposals, voting on them, and selecting final four; Hirst requests Board's approval of proposed FY25 Action Items

2. Various Board members ask about proposed Action Items; questions include how the proposed Action Items relate to the Library's goals and how they will be formally assessed for effectiveness
3. Margolis makes a motion approve proposed FY25 Action Items; Burstein seconds; Board votes unanimously to approve proposed FY25 Action Items

D. Policy: Meeting Room

1. Policy Committee met in July; approved proposed changes to Meeting Room Policy; Burstein makes a motion for Board to approve new Meeting Room Policy; Vanderkay seconds; Board votes unanimously to approve the new policy

IX. Remarks for the Good of the Order

- A. Hung thanks Board for being willing to engage in meaningful discussions that include disagreements and commends Board for remaining united

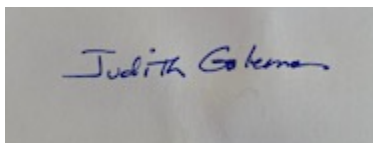
X. Adjourn

- A. Burstein makes a motion to adjourn meeting; Margolis seconds; Board votes unanimously to adjourn the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes drafted by Courtney Hesslein

Attested

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Goleman".

Judith Goleman, Secretary  
2024-2025