

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Special Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation and Administrative Agency

Thursday, June 18, 8:30 a.m.
Boston Public Library, Commonwealth Salon
Central Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston as a Corporation and Administrative Agency was held in the Commonwealth Salon, Central Library, Boston Public Library on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.

Present at the meeting were: Chair Jeffrey B. Rudman, Vice Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Trustees: Zamawa Arenas, John Hailer, Paul A. La Camera, and Rep. Byron Rushing. Trustee Laura DeBonis participated via telephone. Absent from the meeting was Trustee Carol Fulp. Also present at the meeting were: Boston Public Library President Amy E. Ryan; Clerk of the Board Deborah Kirrane, Boston Public Library staff; Corporation Counsel Caroline Driscoll, Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Boston Dan Koh, and members of the public.

Chair Jeffrey B. Rudman presided, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m., and addressed the Chair's Call to Order and Report. Mr. Rudman thanked everyone for attending and, in an off-agenda item, introduced the Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Boston, Dan Koh, and stated that Mr. Koh would be addressing the Trustees.

Mr. Koh stated, "Very briefly, on behalf of the Mayor, I would like to thank Board Chair Rudman, President Ryan, and the board at large. As we move forward in this next chapter in the library, it's important to note how much work has been done by all of you. Board Chair Rudman has worked closely with the administration to ensure a smooth transition, as has President Ryan and the larger board. We are appreciative and look forward to working on July 3rd and beyond, collaboratively, with the people of Boston and the Boston Public Library. Thank you again."¹

Mr. Rudman thanked Mr. Koh for his remarks and moved to the next agenda item: Review and Approval of Minutes of June 3, 2015 Special Trustees Meeting. Rep. Rushing asked that Mr. Koh's remarks from the June 3, 2015 Special Trustee Meeting be attached in their entirety to the minutes of the meeting. Upon motion made and duly seconded, to approve minutes as amended to include Mr. Koh's June 3, 2015 remarks in their entirety, it was unanimously:

VOTED: "that the Minutes of the June 3, 2015 Special Trustees Meeting, amended to include Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Boston Dan Koh's June 3, 2015 remarks, attached in their entirety, be approved."

Mr. Rudman introduced Boston Public Library President Amy Ryan who addressed the President's Report. Ms. Ryan recommended to the Trustees that BPL Director of Administration

¹ Statement of Dan Koh is transcribed here exactly as was stated.

and Technology, David Leonard, be named Interim President of the Boston Public Library, beginning July 4, 2015. Mr. Leonard began his career at the BPL in 2009. David's experience, knowledge, and his personal commitment to the success of the BPL makes him the best selection for Interim President. In his current position, Mr. Leonard administers the Facilities, Human Resources, Employee Relations, Events, IT, Web Services, the Metro Boston Library Network, and Major Capital Projects, including the Johnson Project. Mr. Leonard has recently enrolled in the Doctorate Program of Library Science at Simmons College and, while the President of the BPL must have a Library Science degree, the same is not required of an Interim President. Accordingly, Mr. Leonard meets the criteria established by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz said that Mr. Leonard was a good choice and she enjoyed working with him through his work with the Finance and Audit Committee. Mr. LaCamera stated that he has full confidence in Mr. Leonard, and Ms. Arenas added her support for Mr. Leonard as Interim President and noted that she has worked with him since 2009. Mr. Koh added that Mr. Leonard has the support of the Mayor of Boston as well.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Trustees unanimously

VOTED: “that, David Leonard be appointed as Interim President of the Public Library of the City of Boston, to begin his duties on July 4, 2015.”

Mr. Rudman congratulated Mr. Leonard. Trustees and audience applauded.

Mr. Rudman next addressed the discussion of Interim Board Leadership of the Board of Trustees. He expressed his gratitude to Ms. Arana-Ortiz in her agreeing to remain as Vice Chair of the Board and to continue doing the wonderful work she has been doing. Ms. Arana-Ortiz was first appointed in May of 2009. She was asked to chair the Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Committee where she created the framework to bring transparency and collaboration with the Roxbury community to the Committee which seeks, delivers, monitors, and measures outcomes of a large selection of rich and diverse programming at the Dudley branch library. In 2010 Ms. Arana-Ortiz was appointed chair of the Finance and Audit Committee where she successfully addressed financial audit findings, reducing same from 12 items to two, and has revised the BPL Trustees' investment policy and strategy saving the library thousands of dollars in fund management fees, reducing investment risk, and affording healthy investment returns. Mr. Rudman thanked Ms. Arana-Ortiz for her service and friendship, and all applauded.

Mr. Rudman next announced that John Hailer would serve as Interim Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library.

Mr. Hailer is a Boston native, from Roslindale, who was appointed to the BPL Board of Trustees in March of 2013. He is the chief executive officer of Natixis Global Asset Management and has a long history of community involvement in Boston and a great of experience in corporate philanthropy. He is the chair of the New England Council of Board Directors, serves on the Board of Directors for the Home for Little Wanderers, Boston Medical Center, Best Buddies Hyannisport Challenge, and Berklee School of Music.

Mr. Hailer has fostered a culture of giving back and community involvement at Natixis, most notably in the firm's philanthropy program – the Ambassador Program – an innovative partnership between Natixis and local nonprofit organizations that focuses on core social services and plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life in Boston and, the “Adopt-a-School” program in a partnership with the City of Boston under which private companies make a direct and sustained impact on individual Boston schools in need. Mr. Hailer's father served as both a Massachusetts State Representative and a Boston City Councilor, thus affording him an even greater understanding of the City of Boston.

As Chair of the Trustees Nominating Committee, Mr. LaCamera thanked Mr. Rudman and commended him for the extraordinary contributions he has made to the BPL. He acknowledged his support and confidence in Mr. Hailer, noting Mr. Hailer's charitable involvement and his many accomplishments. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. LaCamera formally moved to name Mr. Hailer, Interim Chair of the Board of Trustees of the BPL as of July 4, 2015.

Rep. Rushing seconded the motion, adding that while he was always aware of Mr. Hailer's reputation, he is grateful for having the opportunity to work with him as a member of the Board of Trustees of the BPL and that Mr. Hailer is the perfect choice to lead the BPL forward in its many tasks, the major of which will be choosing a new President.

It was thus unanimously

VOTED: “that, John Hailer be named Interim Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, to begin his duties on July 4, 2015.”

Ms. Arana-Ortiz stated that she is looking forward to supporting Mr. Hailer and the Board in the many tasks ahead, including the search for a new President.

Mr. Hailer stated that he is honored and proud to be named Interim Chair. As a lifelong Bostonian of modest means, he used the BPL a great deal and it has affected the direction of his life. The library is an amazing institution, a place of learning and safety and the BPL is one of the great libraries of the world. He was honored to be given this opportunity and stated that Mr. Rudman would be a hard act to follow given all that he has accomplished. Mr. Hailer pointed to issues facing the board: updating security, increasing digitization, mobile access, building up the Foundation, searching for a new President, and continuing the good work that has been done. He is looking forward to working with the Boston City Council and with the Mayor, is honored to lead and chair, and thanked the Board of Trustees for this opportunity and there was applause.

Mr. Rudman confirmed that there would be a Special Trustees Meeting on July 30, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. to address security and inventory follow-up issues, and meeting moved to New Business during which Mr. Rudman read a letter of resignation from Trustee Dennis Lehane. (Said letter is attached hereto.)

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Rudman thanked the Trustees, President Ryan, and everyone who worked at the Boston Public Library. What has been accomplished, together, since President Ryan's arrival in 2008 to today is extraordinary.

Mr. Rudman quoted Dr. Samuel Johnson: "The great need of mankind is not to be informed, but to be reminded." Mr. Rudman asked if everyone would, each day, remind all that the BPL is the greatest public library in the United States of America and nobody should forget that, not even for a moment.

Mr. LaCamera thanked President Ryan for bringing Midwestern nice to Boston, for serving as a model for all, and stated that her accomplishments are extraordinary.

The Trustees and crowd extended President Ryan a standing ovation.

With no further business before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.



Deborah A. Kirrane
Clerk of the Board

June 17, 2015

Dear Fellow Trustees of the Boston Public Library,

Due to my becoming a California resident, I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Boston Public Library's Board of Trustees.

I do so with great regret and a heavy heart. As most of you know, I directly credit the Boston Public Library and its branches with my success as a writer because it showed me a world beyond my own, a world of ideas and experiences that unfurled like an infinite ribbon. I believe that the BPL continues to expand minds and save the lives of children all over the city and offer pathways out of poverty and ignorance to striving adults as well. Its mission is therefore profoundly worthwhile and unequivocally good.

It has been a singular honor to serve with you on the board these last few years. I'm a better person for having known you all and take great comfort in knowing that men and women of your stature, esteem, and workload take the time out of your busy lives to tend to the needs of this great institution. If there is ever any way I can serve the library in any capacity going forward, please do not hesitate to reach out. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Lehane', written in a cursive style.

Dennis Lehane