

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation and Administrative Agency

Monday, November 30, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
Boston Public Library
Commonwealth Salon, Central Library
Copley Square, 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 Central Library, Copley Square, on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Present at the meeting were: Interim Chair John Hailer, Vice Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Trustees: Zamawa Arenas, Byron Rushing, Paul LaCamera, Robert Gallery, and Cheryl Cronin. Trustee Laura DeBonis participated via telephone. Also present at the meeting were: Mayor of Boston Martin J. Walsh, Boston Public Library Interim President David Leonard, Clerk of the Board Deborah Kirrane, Boston Public Library staff; Corporation Counsel Caroline Driscoll, Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Boston Molly Murphy, and members of the public.

Interim Chair John Hailer presided, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m., and addressed the Chair's Call to Order and Report. Mr. Hailer introduced Mayor Walsh, and thanked the Mayor for his attendance at the meeting.

With no changes, edits, or comments to the Minutes for the November 10, 2015 Trustees Meeting, after motion made and duly seconded, the Trustees unanimously voted to approve the Minutes.

Regarding the Boston Public Library Presidential Search update, Mr. Leonard reminded all that the next 'listening session' would follow the first meeting of the Search Committee, on November 30, 2015, at the Brighton Branch Library. Mr. Hailer reconfirmed that the presidential search process would be a very transparent and very public process.

Mr. Hailer next introduced Robert Gallery and Cheryl Cronin, recently appointed by Mayor Walsh, and sworn in as trustees of the Boston Public Library. Ms. Cronin is a Boston attorney and avid BPL user. Mr. Gallery is well-known among all City of Boston organizations for donations of his time and support.

Ms. Cronin stated that she is looking forward to working with the Board and thanked Mayor Walsh for the privilege of serving. Similarly, Mr. Gallery said he is honored by the appointment.

Mr. Leonard presented the President's Report and announced the December 1, 2015 re-opening of the Rare Books Department, mold abatement and cleaning of materials having been completed. He thanked all staff members who worked very hard to ensure the department's re-opening.

Mr. Leonard introduced two votes before the Trustees, related to work within the Rare Books Department. The first vote was to delegate approval for Rare Books Department carpet replacement to the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee. Carpeting within the department must be replaced so that a mold bloom will not reoccur. The second vote was to authorize BPL Interim President to approve contracts in excess of \$10,000 for specific individuals working on the print inventory project.

Boston Public Library Chief Financial Officer Ellen Donaghey explained that the vote to delegate the carpet replacement contract to the Trustees Finance and Audit Committee, was necessary to keep the project moving along and not delay bid approval.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was:

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston delegate approval of Award of Contract for replacement carpet in Rare Books Department, to Trustees Finance and Audit Committee.” and

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston authorize Interim President of Boston Public Library or his designee, to approve contracts in excess of \$10,000 for specific individuals working on Boston Public Library print inventory project. Interim President and/or designee shall report on status and number of said contracts at January 19, 2015 Trustees Meeting.”

The meeting next moved to New Business. Mr. Hailer asked Mayor Walsh to please deliver his remarks to the Board of Trustees. Mayor Walsh thanked Mr. Gallery and Ms. Cronin for accepting the appointment to serve as Trustees, and thanked the Trustees for their commitment to Boston Public Library and to the City of Boston. He expressed his pride in the Boston Public Library being one of the greatest libraries in the country, and promised the support of City Hall in addressing the challenges faced by the BPL and, especially, by the Rare Books Department. Mayor Walsh pointed to the excitement surrounding the groundbreaking of the Jamaica Plain Branch renovation and the importance of branch libraries to the neighborhoods they serve.

Mr. Hailer confirmed that he has been serving, since June, as Interim Chair, and it has been an honor for him to have done so. He recognized the hard work of Vice Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz and fellow Trustees in supporting him in his role as Interim Chair. Mr. Hailer echoed Mayor Walsh’s description of the BPL as an “amazing institution,” and stated that he would, as of November 30, 2015, be resigning his role as Interim Chair, and resuming his role as Trustee. He asked Paul LaCamera, Chair of the Trustees Nominating Committee to nominate a new Chair for the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library.

On behalf of the Trustees, Mr. LaCamera thanked Mr. Hailer. Mr. LaCamera stated that Mr. Hailer assumed responsibility for the Board of Trustees during a time of turmoil and transition, and brought strength, leadership, and calmness in assisting the Boston Public Library. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. LaCamera raised the name of Robert Gallery to serve as the next Chair of the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. LaCamera explained that he and Mr. Gallery are long time friends and colleagues and have worked on many projects together. Mr. LaCamera described Mr. Gallery as a generational business, civic, and community leader, and he could not be more pleased to nominate him as Chair. Upon motion made to appoint Robert Gallery as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library and seconded by Ms. Arenas, it was unanimously

VOTED: “that, Robert E. Gallery be appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston.”

Mr. Gallery stated that he is honored to play a role and will build on the tradition of the Boston Public Library, and work closely with staff and Trustees.

Ms. Arenas welcomed both Ms. Cronin and Mr. Gallery, and thanked Mayor Walsh for their appointments. She has admired both new Trustees for their civic and corporate leadership and is looking forward to working with them.

Mr. Hailer asked Mayor Walsh if he could please express what he is hoping to find in a new President of the Boston Public Library.

Mayor Walsh thanked Mr. Hailer for serving as Interim Chair and congratulated Mr. Gallery for being appointed chair. Mayor Walsh stated that he would like to see the next President of the BPL be aware of the internal workings of the BPL and have a strong management style, a style that can continue to move BPL’s management team forward. He spoke to the importance of the branches, to getting more Bostonians engaged in the BPL on-line and in the buildings, and to bring stability back to the BPL. Mayor Walsh would also like to see a President that can offer strong fiscal management, knowledge of rare books, someone who can build off BPL’s strong successes, and fix challenges BPL has encountered in the past.

The meeting next moved to Public Comment. David Vieira, Citywide Friends of the Boston Public Library, announced that he would not be commenting at the current meeting. Elissa Cadillic, President of AFSCME Local 1526 welcomed the new Trustees. She is looking forward to working with them. Ms. Cadillic thanked Mr. Hailer for his work as Interim, and especially for allowing public comment prior to Trustees vote.

Jan Spitz, Executive Director of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, asked that Mr. Hailer be applauded for his efforts. All applauded.

With no further business, upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah A. Kirrane, Clerk