

# **TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON**

## **Meeting of the Trustees Executive Committee**

**Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting of the Boston Public Library (“BPL”) Trustees Executive Committee (“Committee”) was held on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Committee members present at the meeting included Priscilla H. Douglas, Chair, Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Vice Chair and Trustees: Joe Berman, Cheryl Cronin, John Hailer, Jeff Hawkins and Christian Westra.

Also present were David Leonard, President, Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board, staff, and members of the public.

Priscilla H. Douglas, Chair of the Board presided and called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Those in attendance were reminded that the meeting was being recorded and how to sign up for public comment. She read the Trustees reaffirmation statement, roll call was taken and determined there was a quorum. The first matter of business was approval of the June 1, 2023 meeting minutes. With no edits or comments, the meeting minutes were approved.

President David Leonard added that they just reopened the Faneuil Branch where they received 1,100+ visitors for the day and held a great open house on Saturday.

Next, Ms. Arana Ortiz was asked to review the Finance and Audit Committee report. She noted that they cancelled their January meeting, therefore the draft Mayor’s budget has not reviewed yet. She noted that there is a 2% increase with the proposed requests for FY25.

Ms. Tokarczyk noted that there are four main themes in the budget: safety & security, social work, youth services, and Facilities. Capital projects have no real adjustments but are listed by way of reference. Once the numbers are finalized, they will review with the Committee before bringing to Full board.

Ms. Douglas asked Christian Westra to give Strategic Planning Committee updates. Mr. Westra explained they have been engaged with Gensler and Margaret Sullivan. A steering group was formed consisting of a few members of the leadership team, the Chair/Vice Chair of the Committee as well as a few representatives from Gensler. Their next meeting was scheduled for February 1, 2024.

Mr. Leonard added that this week’s meeting of the Steering Group is the start of the process. They will begin to schedule several key meetings to follow, including Strategic Planning committee, leadership, staff networking group, update the trustees, key community stakeholders, etc. They expect it to be a 9–12-month process. The development of the plan will run Feb-Oct with follow up for implementation.

Ms. Douglas called for new business and public comment, for which there was none.

Next, Ms. Douglas asked to enter Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with a nonunion staff member under Exemption 2 of the MA Open Meeting Law. The clerk noted it would be held immediately following the vote and that the Board will not be reconvening in a public session.

A motion was made, duly seconded, and voted unanimously, via a roll call vote.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees Executive Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to enter into Executive Session.”**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pamela R. Carver, Clerk of the Board*