

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 Thursday, June 1, 2023, held 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: Ben Bradlee, Cheryl Cronin, Linda Dorcena Forry, and John Hailer. Jeff Hawkins was absent.

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 November 30, 2022 meeting minutes. With no edits or comments, the meeting minutes were approved via a roll call vote.

Beth Prindle was asked to discuss the MOU between BPL and Boston Medical Library (“BML”) at the Harvard/Countway Library. She explained that a portion of the BPL Collection includes medical books and pamphlets on June 16, 1905. At last year’s annual meeting, the BPL trustees voted to terminate its relationship with BML, and the collections are currently held by Countway Library and the Harvard Depository. Countway will continue to hold the BPL Medical Books, free of charge and fully insured, until such time as either or both parties no longer find the relationship mutually agreeable. Harvard has demonstrated itself to be great stewards of this collections within the terms of MOU.

A motion was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve the MOU.

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Executive Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the Deposit Relationship of Medical Books with the Countway Library and the Fellows of Harvard College, Inc. per the conditions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.”

David Leonard was pleased to report that the City’s Office of Labor Relations signed the collective bargaining agreements as ratified. He explained it is standard practice for the Trustees to accept and endorse them. He gave a breakdown of the employee workforce composition as of 5/3/23.

A motion was duly made, seconded, and approved via unanimous vote.

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Executive Committee of the of the Public Library of the City of Boston, accept management’s recommendation to endorse the terms of the successor City of Boston/Boston Public Library and AFSCME Local 1526, Collective Bargaining Agreement ratified by AFSCME Local 1526 on April 26, 2023.”

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Executive Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston accept management’s recommendation to endorse the terms of the successor City of Boston/Boston Public Library and Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, AFL-CIO, Collective Bargaining Agreement ratified by Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, AFL-CIO on December 9, 2022.”

Next, Ms. Douglas introduced the role of the Executive Committee. A smaller group of the Trustees with ties to the larger group. She noted that Navjeet Bal and Christian Westra will be invited as well intermittently as we move into strategic planning process. The purpose is to share ideas for

this group to consider. She explained they provide organizational oversight, it is not to take management's job, but rather taking barometer reading of this group on ideas to indicate what works and what doesn't.

The Executive Committee will look at the committees' roles, and if they are working or not to make sure all are truly connected to the strategic planning process.

They discussed the cadence of the Executive Committee meeting. Suggested moving from five trustees' meetings annually down to four. The full board meets on a quarterly basis and the Executive Committee would meet minimally once or twice as "catch up".

Christian Westra was invited to give updates on the Strategic Planning. He explained they held a few interesting conversations and developed an outlined schedule. Some requirements will be driven by city protocols. The next milestone was advertising for a consultant. The RFP was anticipated to be due on August 1 with interviews to following September. Some dates may change as needed.

Ms. Douglas added that the goal was to be informed: what is our mission, what is our commitment, etc. to bring the library into the future.

Ms. Douglas called for new business. She noted the new trustees meeting platform, OnBoard will be offering training sessions later in the summer for roll out in the fall.

Ms. Douglas asked for 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,

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 9:30 a.m.

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