

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

Roxbury Branch Library, 149 Dudley Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at the Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Present at the meeting were: Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee Evelyn Arana Ortiz, Committee Members: Priscilla Foley, Allen Knight, Jacqueline Johnson and Rep. Chynah Tyler. Elizabeth T. Nagarajah was absent.

Also present: Dianna Preusser, Assistant Neighborhood Services/Branches Manager, Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Program Manager and Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board. The meeting was also streamed via Zoom for the public.

The Clerk noted the meeting was being recorded and reminders to sign up for public comment. Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. She read the opening statement. The Clerk took roll call and determined there was a quorum. The first item on agenda was approval of meeting minutes from December 7, 2023, which were approved.

Priscilla Foley gave brief general BPL updates. All locations except Uphams and Chinatown were now open on Saturday. Steady progress on filling vacancies.

Ms. Silva-Collins gave updates on the FY24 programs since December, She reminded all of the categories and targeted audiences. She shared some photos of the turnouts.

Castle of our Skins, Chess Wizards (starting up again for last session in April), Makanda Project had the highest attendance they have ever had and the Friends had a dessert sale and profits will support senior scholarship.

Movers & Makers, New Wealth Seminar, (final workshop was in January), Piano Classes (with Boston Conservatory students) were very successful.

Sewing 101 Bootcamp (this session included a gentleman attending and receiving his certificate).

Play Reading Book Club with ArtsEmerson were performing Moby Dick.

Take Back the Kitchen program hosted one session for older adults and one for families. The sessions run until early June.

Take the “A” Train were studying various African American historical leaders. Women’s Reproductive Health Series was very successful from Jan-Feb. reviewing various topics from pregnancy through aging to a wide diverse group of women. Chair Yoga was well received and lots of repeat attendees.

Mrs. Silva-Collins noted that upcoming programs would feature the following: Greater Roxbury Book Fair in May. Chess Wizards in April through June, The CALM experience for Mindfulness during April vacation week on how to handle impulsive and aggression, and disappointment. The Roxbury Concert Series on April 6th and the Mother’s Camp for Family Sewing on May 4th, Comics Camp during April vacation. MassQing Workshops would run April-May, Afro-Brazilian

Dance workshops from May to June 29.

Flyers will be posted on social media and also be featured on the website. They discussed the possibility of having a filter on the website specifically for Fellowes Athenaeum Trust programs. Ms. Foley said she would follow up with the Committee.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted that the Poetry grantee couldn't find dates this spring for the workshop and requested to postpone until the fall of 2024 or winter/spring of 2025. The Committee discussed if this would be granted on a case by case basis and not as a policy to automatically postpone. They noted that room availability would have to be secured early to ensure this.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted she has filed the required forms for recording students and also fills out observation forms on each programs. She will track zip codes of the participants to note if it is Roxbury residents or beyond who are attending the programs.

Next, the timeline for the FY25 RFPs was reviewed. The RFP will be issued on May 24th, the notice of intent will be due on July 1st, and the final proposals will be due on July 22nd.

The Committee discussed their next meeting to review/approve the proposals and agreed on August 15, 2024. They noted they will decide to meet virtually vs. in-person on a case-by-case basis for next year.

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked for new business and public comment, for which there was none.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R. Carver