

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

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

**Friday, September 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting of the Boston Public Library (“BPL”) Trustees Executive Committee (“Committee”) was held on Friday, September 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Committee members present included Dr. Ray Liu, Chair, Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Vice Chair and Trustees: Joe Berman, Cheryl Cronin, and Christian Westra. Members John Hailer and Jeff Hawkins were absent.

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

#### **Call to Order:**

- Dr. Ray Liu presided and convened the meeting at 8:32am. He acknowledged the Trustees’ reaffirmation statement.
- The Clerk took roll call and confirmed there was a quorum. She reminded all that the meeting was being recorded and the process for signing up for public comment.
- Dr. Liu expressed gratitude for the committee's engagement and highlighted the community’s trust in the BPL’s assets.
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#### **Strategic Planning Update:**

- Christian Westra and David Leonard emphasized we are at pivotal point of the process and need to begin process of input from trustees and key stakeholders.
- The Board of Trustees will also receive a version of this at the September 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- Mr. Leonard emphasized the importance of involving stakeholders in the planning process to ensure transparency and inclusivity.
- The aim is to achieve trustee buy-in by the end of November.

#### **Mission, Vision, and Goals:**

- Sarah Zaphiris indicated that revisions are in progress, particularly on the core value "Free to All," which resonates with staff, community, and Trustees alike. It reflects the BPL’s identity.
- Discussion on incorporating literacy and knowledge into the strategic plan and mission statement was held.

#### **Proposed Library Roles:**

- The four roles were outlined. They determined who the library is to the community.
  1. Welcoming Destination
  2. Life-Long Learning & Research Partner
  3. Trusted Resource
  4. Community Engager
- The committee was tasked with reviewing these roles for further discussion later.

#### **Committee Structure and Next Steps:**

- There were raised concerns about the Steering Committee's function and the need for more clarity regarding its role in decision making.
- A suggestion was made to hold additional Executive Committee meetings in October/November for deeper discussions but open it up to all board members to participate in the discussion.

**Executive Session:**

- Ray Liu called for an Executive Session to discuss negotiations with a nonunion staff member under exemption 2 of MA Open Meeting Law.
- A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to enter Executive Session was passed.
- The Committee will not be reconvening after the closed session.

With no new business or public comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela R. Carver, Clerk of the Board*