

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

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

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.**

**Central Library, Orientation Room**

**700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting of the Boston Public Library (“BPL”) Trustees Executive Committee (“Committee”) was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 3:00p.m. at the Central Library.

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

Also present were David Leonard, President, Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board, Trustees Navjeet Bal and Julie Kim, staff, and members of the public.

Dr. Ray Liu, Chair of the Board presided and called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Those in attendance were reminded that the meeting was being recorded and how to sign up for public comment. He read the Trustees reaffirmation statement, roll call was taken and determined there was a quorum. The first matter of business was approval of the September 13, 2024, meeting minutes. With no edits or comments, the meeting minutes were approved.

Dr. Liu said they were going to have a governance discussion on clarifying roles among the board and committees.

Next, Erin Corcoran of Gensler gave a presentation of the draft strategic plan. She began by introducing the implementation roadmap. Some key points that were discussed included: the Strategic Plan should encompass longer-term goals, emphasize holistic funding and rollout strategies, and key deliverables and the significance of the City’s capital plan were highlighted.

Ms. Corcoran said they would be developing a two-page overview folder, which would include letters from the Board (represented by the Chair of the Board), President Leonard, and Mayor Wu. The Committee suggested including impactful data reflecting library usage and programs.

The committee had a robust discussion which included some concerns about the content being too Central Library focused and not representative of branches. They felt the vision statement needed some revisions to include more aspirational language. They also made suggestions to transform the document's tone from operational to inspirational.

The Committee continued the review of the draft strategic goals. They suggested they review and revise goals to better articulate aspirations for the library's future. They also suggested inclusion of safety and community engagement initiatives. There was an emphasis on the importance of involving teenagers and young adults in library initiatives and the need for a balance between aspiration and attainability in goals.

Regarding community engagement initiatives, the committee suggested increased awareness of electronic resources and cultural language teaching.

The Committee evaluated the next steps. They agreed that each goal and initiative will be reviewed for clarity and aspirational language. Organizational shifts to support strategic goals will be considered.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

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