



**Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
September 14, 2020
Minutes**

This meeting was held under the NYS Governor's Executive Order No. 202.1: Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency

Trustees Present: G. Brandt C. Corcoran, R. DeGuzman, L. Giess, P. Knapp, J. Lovenheim, A. Moffitt, M. Shelly, S. Stockman, M. Thompson, W. Yust (quorum present)

Trustees Excused: none

Staff and Guests: County law liaison D. Crumb; FFRPL liaison N. Davis; City Budget Office liaison Emily Lohner; staff members B. Harrison, A. Traub, P. Uttaro, D. Mansour

Call to Order

Ms. Shelly called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm and confirmed that a quorum was present. She reminded everyone that the meeting is being held under the Governor's Executive Order 202.1 and she will be calling the votes via a rollcall.

Meeting Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Thompson AND SECONDED BY Mr. Corcoran to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 17, 2020, as presented. THE MOTION PASSED with Dr. Knapp and Ms. DeGuzman ABSTAINING. Mr. Brandt was not present for the vote.

Claims

Ms. Harrison reviewed the claims and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dr. Knapp AND SECONDED BY Mr. Yust to approve the claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Harrison introduced Emily Lohner from the City of Rochester Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Lohner is the new liaison to the Library and will be occasionally joining the Board meetings for both MCLS and RPL.

Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2022-2027

Ms. Harrison reviewed the Capital Improvement Program and made note of the savings in interest costs due to switching from a cyclical five-year debt authorization cycle to a flat, multi-year cash capital rate as requested by the County in 2019. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Mr. Yust to approve the 2022-2027 County CIP Request as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS Recommendation for NYS Library Construction Grants

Mr. Traub reviewed the recommended grant allocations to MCLS member libraries making note of the significant cut in funding from New York State. Ms. DeGuzman asked for clarification regarding the

viability of completing the projects given that the grant funds do not provide full funding for them. Ms. Harrison explained that the projects will be completed, and the grant funds will reduce the amount of debt incurred by the City for the projects. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Giess AND SECONDED BY Ms. Moffitt to approve the recommended allocations of library construction funds as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Board Liaison

Mr. Brandt reported that the RPL Board discussed recent retirements of RPL staff, closures of branches for use as voting sites on election day, and updates to the air exchange equipment in the Bausch and Lomb Library Building. The RPL Board also discussed a PSA with the Tracy Jong law firm for the Business Insight Center.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison

Dr. Knapp reported that the RRLC Board met September 10. They welcomed new Advisory Committee representative Ron Kirsop, Director of the Pioneer Library System, to the Board and new Board members, Larry Wahl, humanities educator from the Webster School District and Raquel Gonzales, historian and researcher from The Strong Museum. The Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum is a new member of RRLC. The audit report for 2019-20 was received by the Board and there were no recommendations from the auditors. There was a vote to expand the Board and add a new Member at Large. RRLC is also using Causewave Community Partners to undertake a stakeholder survey.

Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (FFRPL) Liaison

Mr. Davis offered to answer any questions on his written report and reviewed highlights with everyone.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro reported that a connection has been made via Dr. Guttmacher with the Monroe County Mobile Mental Health Unit. Librarians are being educated on when and how to activate the unit rather than calling the police for help with patrons requiring mental health assistance. Next, she provided a correction to the in-library program statistics that were distributed in the Board Package. The correct numbers should be 8 programs with 269 attendees.

She then updated everyone on the work of the Racial Equity and Justice Initiative (REJI) team. The team will be working on a project to make changes with the cataloging staff on how items are classified. Examples include moving civil rights and slavery from Social Sciences to American History and native American religions from Fairytales to Religions. The team will review the entire classification system and will provide recommendations to member libraries. Another initiative being undertaken by the REJI team is to work with the St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center on creating a clearinghouse of local and national resources on racial equity and justice materials.

Ms. Uttaro is also asking a local presenter to provide a program to member libraries on the history of red lining in Rochester. Mr. Lovenheim asked that trustees be invited to this program. Ms. DeGuzman noted that when she was putting together a similar program, Michelle Finn was extremely helpful in sourcing library resources for her program.

Ms. Uttaro also shared that the United Way and the Community Foundation will be receiving a funding proposal from the library for the creation of a special collection in the Local History and Genealogy Division focusing on Rochester's communities of color.

Dr. Knapp thanked Ms. Uttaro and staff for their work on all the initiatives mentioned, noting how important this work is to build a more equitable and just society.

MCLS Office/Central Library

Mr. Traub reviewed the highlights of his written report and offered to answer any questions.

Other Business

Ms. Thompson read a memorial for Eileen Riedman, a long-time trustee and tireless library advocate who passed away June 23, 2020.

After a brief discussion, the trustees agreed to continue meeting via Zoom as long as the Governor's order holds.

Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dr. Knapp AND SECONDED BY Mr. Corcoran to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Uttaro, Secretary