

**TO: MCLS Trustees**  
**FROM: Gary Brandt, MCLS Trustee Liaison to the RPL Board**  
**DATE: October 28, 2020**  
**RE: Report of the October 28, 2020 Meeting of the RPL Board**

The RPL Board met this morning at 9:00 a.m. The agenda for the meeting is attached for your review.

The following items of interest were discussed and/or acted upon:

- a. Anna Suro, Personal Director, reported that three RPL employees were retiring. Finance Director Harrison detailed the use of the Fund Balance for the coming year.
- b. Chair Baynes had asked for Trustees to volunteer to serve on the new Nomination Committee. Trustee Hamilton was appointed as Chair with Trustees Benjamin and Brandt as additional members.
- c. The list of 2021 RPL meetings was approved, with an additional RPL meeting set for December 30, 2020 to complete the list of necessary 2020 required meetings, as the April 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 issues.
- d. The RPL Strategic Plan was extended for one year, due to need for more detailed review caused by the impending departure of Dr. Reeves and the operational issues related to COVID-19.
- e. The City Capital Improvement Program items were discussed and approved. Deputy Mayor Smith indicated that the City is facing a \$60 million budget deficit and the serious demise of the annual Cash Capital program, meaning that CIP projects would all have to be financed via municipal bonding.
- f. Director Uttaro and FFRPL Director Davis discussed the negotiations with the Rochester Area Community Foundation and the United Way Community Crisis Fund for the funding of \$60,000 to support the use of Security Guards for the four neighborhood libraries that are currently open. Director Davis discussed the November Publishers' Circle dinner to be held on Zoom.
- g. Director Uttaro discussed the raising level of concern for COVID-19 transmission by staff at the Tech Center at Central. She also discussed the work with City Historian Ridarsky and employee Michelle Finn to assemble materials for a Black Lives Exhibit, and also creating an archive at Rundel for local black history materials currently held in other locations by various local organizations. Director Uttaro discussed the plans for an expanded Maplewood Branch that would include community meeting rooms and the initial discussion of conducting ballet classes in such a new facility.

h. Dr. Reeves discussed the important need for the local RPL branches to maintain and expand internet access, based on the needs of the community. She reviewed the work with the RCSD for the use of the Learning Pods at the branches.

i. Director Uttaro discussed and showed the 2021 Rochester Public Library Calendar that is for sale, with beautiful historic photos of RPL buildings (and tents). Deputy Mayor Smith indicated that he would also be selling the calendars from his office in City Hall. He alerted the Trustees to the coming release of the City Fire Department 2021 Calendar, with some “exciting” photos.

j. Lastly, Director Uttaro led a review about the recent discussions with the Rochester Institute of Technology Dept of History to assist with the publication of the Rochester History Journal currently resting with the RPL staff. Various RPL Trustees announced concerns about the discussions, making sure that required RFP’s be incorporated into any agreement specific to printing and exclusivity with R.I.T. for ownership and content.

Respectfully submitted.

GB