

**Monroe County Library System & Rochester Public Library
Joint Meeting of the Boards of Trustees
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
February 23, 2022
Minutes**

MCLS Trustees Present: G. Brandt, C. Corcoran, L. Giess, E. Hessney Lynch, P. Knapp, J. Lovenheim, A. Moffitt, M. Shelly, E. Stephens, S. Stockman, (quorum present)

MCLS Trustees Excused: M. Smith

RPL Trustees Present: D. Benjamin, A. Drury, S. Futch, G. Gardner, R. Hamilton, J. Lovenheim, S. Salluzzo E. Stephens (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: K. Baynes, C. Conklin, D. Karin

Staff and Guests: County executive's office liaison, BJ Scanlon; Mayor's office liaison, T. Mayberry; County law liaison D. Crumb, Esq.; City law liaison J. Brennan, Esq.; FFRPL liaison D. Borgus; staff members J. Byrnes, B. Harrison, J. Lenio, M. Lewis, D. Mansour, A. Suro, P. Uttaro

Call to Order

Ms. Benjamin and Ms. Stockman each called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., confirmed that a quorum was present for each board, and welcomed trustees and guests.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public who wished to address either board.

Joint Action Item

Proposed FY23 Central Library Budget

Ms. Harrison asked everyone to refer to the budget documents within their packets. She made note that the proposed budget has been approved by the joint MCLS and RPL Budget Committee. She reviewed some of the highlights and offered to answer any questions.

For the MCLS Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Giess AND SECONDED BY Dr. Knapp to approve the proposed 2022-23 Central Library Budget as presented and approved by the joint finance committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the RPL Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Gardner AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve the proposed 2022-23 Central Library Budget as presented and approved by the joint finance committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS Action Items

Minutes of January MCLS Meeting

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dr. Knapp AND SECONDED BY Ms. Stephens to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 24, 2022, as presented. THE MOTION PASSED with Mr. Lovenheim ABSTAINING.

Financial Claims

Ms. Harrison reviewed the MCLS financial claims and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Corcoran AND SECONDED BY Ms. Moffitt to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL Action Items

Minutes of January RPL Meeting

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2022, as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Personnel Changes

Ms. Suro reviewed highlights of the personnel changes and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Drury AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve the personnel changes as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Financial Reports

Ms. Harrison reviewed highlights of the financial reports and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to approve the monthly financial reports as presented, and as approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Proposed FY23 Community Library Budget

Ms. Harrison reviewed the highlights of the proposed FY23 Community Library Budget and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve the proposed 2022-23 Community Library Budget as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FFRPL Grant Acceptance

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item and answered questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Drury AND SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to accept a grant from the Friends & Foundation of RPL for the purchase of English-language print and e-content materials for \$20,142.98. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Transfer of Periodicals to The Strong

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve the transfer of *American Boy*, *Interracial Books for Children*, and *Youth's Companion* to The Strong. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Professional Services Agreement, The Strong

Ms. Harrison reviewed the item. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Gardner AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve a professional services agreement with The Strong National Museum of Play with terms, conditions and charges as described. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports

Friends & Foundation of RPL

Ms. Borgus reported the spring appeal letter will arrive on March 8, the Annual Campaign has raised over \$211,00 as of February 3, grants or sponsorships received are \$45,500, and pending grants total \$116,000.

She reported that Patty's birthday fundraiser was very successful, and proceeds go to the Harold Hacker Fund. This inaugural fundraiser allowed FFRPL staff to work out any kinks and they now have the skills to set up more personal fundraisers. She encouraged trustees to let her know if they have an interest in doing one.

Sustainable shelves have brought in credits to the library of \$2,262. To date this fiscal year, the net internet sales are over \$26,000 putting that program on track to meet the yearly goal of \$35,000.

Three Tuesday Topics showcasing current library services and resources have been completed.

Books Sandwiched In spring series is established. The first will occur on March 29, and they will run through May 10.

The Sokol High School Literary Awards are underway, and the ceremony is planned for April 28.

Liaison to RPL Board

Mr. Stephens introduced himself as the new liaison to the RPL Board from the MCLS Board.

Rochester Regional Library Council

Dr. Knapp reported that RRLC did not meet since his last report.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro introduced Jennifer Byrnes. Ms. Byrnes demonstrated the new Urban Libraries Council Business Value Calculator for everyone.

Ms. Uttaro reminded trustees about Library Advocacy Day meetings. All meetings are virtual, and more information will be sent to participants before the meetings. In response to a question, she explained that this Advocacy Day is organized and promoted by New York Library Association and is focused on outreach to the NY State legislators. Outreach to other governing bodies is typically performed by herself and her management team depending on the context.

Next, she reported she is organizing a visit from Stephanie Adams, Esq. to discuss book challenges. There has been an uptick in organized challenges at school and public libraries.

Last, she shared that Airigami will be creating a giant dragon-themed balloon sculpture in Hacker Hall for National Library Week, April 3 – 9.

Town Libraries/MCLS Services

Ms. Lenio offered to answer questions on the written report. She highlighted the start of Great Courses in Overdrive with money coming from NYS. These have proved very popular with patrons and spending will be adjusted going forward to meet the demand.

Central Library

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions on the written report. In response to a question, she shared that CASH is doing well and is continuing to be a great partnership.

In response to a question, she explained that traffic at Central is slowly increasing but what has dramatically increased is the number of angry or disruptive patrons. There have been several men recently coming in to challenge the mask mandate or just generally provoke staff and staff are fatigued from these altercations. She and her management team have been brainstorming small ways to thank the staff for their dedication and boost morale. Ms. Benjamin asked if trustees can help and Ms. Uttaro suggested trustees can visit the libraries and talk with the staff and thank them for their work.

Community Libraries

Ms. Lewis offered to answer questions on the written report. She reported that despite the pandemic fatigue, the staff is looking forward to the return of in-person programs in March.

She then shared a story of how dedicated the staff is to serve the community and that Joe Born, supervisor of the Reynolds Media Center, went above and beyond to find MiFi's to send out to the branch libraries to help patrons whose children had been suddenly put back in online schooling.

Other Business

Mr. Hamilton challenged other RPL trustees to visit the Central Library before the next Board Meeting. He encouraged trustees to get their lunch at the Fool Link Community Café

Mr. Brandt encouraged everyone to see *Clarissa Uprooted: Youth and Elders Uncover the Story of Black Rochester*, a documentary film available online.

Adjournment

For the RPL Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim and SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

For the MCLS Board, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dr. Knapp and SECONDED BY Ms. Giess to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary

MCLS Board of Trustees

Shawn Futch, Secretary

RPL Board of Trustees