



**Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 16, 2022
Minutes**

Trustees Present: G. Brandt, C. Corcoran, E. Hessney Lynch, P. Knapp, A. Moffitt, M. Shelly, M. Smith, S. Stockman (quorum present)

Trustees Excused: L. Giess, J. Lovenheim, E. Stephens,

Staff and Guests: County Legislature liaison, S. McCabe; County Administration liaison, B. Scanlon; County law liaison, D. Crumb; FFRPL liaison, D. Borgus; staff members B. Harrison, D. Mansour, M. Lewis, J. Smathers. P. Uttaro

Call to Order

Ms. Stockman called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Public Comments

None

Meeting Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dr. Knapp AND SECONDED BY Ms. Shelly to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Claims

Ms. Harrison reviewed the claims and answered one question. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Rev. Smith AND SECONDED BY Mr. Brandt to approve the claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Proposed 2023 MCLS Budget

Ms. Harrison reviewed the budget proposal and offered to answer questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Corcoran AND SECONDED BY Rev. Smith to approve the proposed 2023 MCLS Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Update to 2022-23 Central Library Budget

Ms. Harrison reviewed the revisions to the Central Library budget and offered to answer questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Corcoran AND SECONDED BY Ms. Moffitt to approve the amended 2022-23 Central Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Central Library Program Aid FY23

Ms. Harrison reviewed the action item and offered to answer questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Dr. Knapp AND SECONDED BY Rev. Smith to approve the NYSED Central Library Development Aid for the 2022-23 budget cycle. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President's Report

Ms. Stockman reminded trustees to be prepared to provide feedback on the new statistics reports at the June meeting.

She then asked everyone to review the document she sent just before the meeting regarding the 2022 Velma K. Moore Award, a \$1500 cash prize.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison

Ms. Stockman moved the RPL Liaison Report to the end of the agenda without objection, to allow for Mr. Stephens to join the meeting late.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison

Dr. Knapp reported that the Annual Membership Meeting was held online via Zoom last week. Members will be voting electronically over the next two weeks on the appointment of new Board members and a new dues system. In addition, library award winners were announced including Bruce Arnett, the supervisor at the Arnett Branch who won Library All-Star.

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

Ms. Borgus shared that last week FFRPL sponsored a day of professional development and reflection for the MCLS Children's Services staff. They also arranged for staff from First American Equipment to do gardening work at the Phillis Wheatley Community Library as part of their company's "Impact Day."

FFRPL partnered with RRLC to convene judging for the Harold Hacker Grant for the Advancement of Libraries. Eleven entries totaling more than \$38,000 were received. There is \$9,000 available to award this year. The judges included three community members and three FFRPL Board members. The four awards will be shared in next month's report from Ms. Borgus.

Fundraising updates include raising \$12,000 for supplemental materials to stock the newly remodeled Secret Room in the Central Library's Children's Center. The Annual Campaign is at \$278,119 as of April 30, compared to \$254,435 for the same period last year.

Lastly, she reported that the reception for all four library boards will be in late summer or early fall after the North Terrace is open.

Board Committee Reports

None

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported there have been significant COVID absences recently and managers and supervisors have been scrambling to fill shifts. Some divisions and/or branches have had to close due to staff absences. In addition to staffing challenges, COVID burn-out among staff has increased as people succumb to the fatigue of dealing with the pandemic for over two years and the general increase in negativity and abuse coming from the public. Management is working with people and offering resources and training to manage mental health.

Next, she reported that Stephanie Cole Adams, Esq. is working on two statewide training that will be available to all trustees and library staff. One will focus on collection management that will include best practices for collection development policies, including organizational principles, and intellectual freedom. The second will be best practices around the orientation of trustees across the state and that work will supplement other work that has already been done over the last several years to provide better training for library trustees.

In response to a question from Mr. Brandt, Ms. Uttaro explained that Rochester Public Library staff members are all receiving mandatory “Active Killer” training from the City of Rochester. Mr. Scanlon will follow up to see if the County is offering similar training. Ms. Smathers will poll the MCLS Member Directors to see if any of the local municipalities are offering this type of training to the member library staff.

MCLS Office

Ms. Samthers offered to answer questions about the written report. Ms. Stockman mentioned she appreciated all of the VIP passes for this year.

Central Library

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that the Secret Room opening was successful.

The MCLS Services newsletter that Alicia Gunther puts out has been focusing on services and special collections. The feedback has been very positive with staff commenting that they are learning new things about the system.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison

On behalf of Mr. Stephens, Ms. Uttaro reported that the Board approved receipt of a grant from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services for \$10,000 which will allow Tonia Burton and her staff to produce three Transition to Kindergarten events at Maplewood, Wheatley, and the Central Library.

The board reviewed and approved the basic organizational principle statements produced by the American Library Association. Specifically, the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View statements, and the Public Libraries Statement of Principles. Amended the Capital Improvement Program.

The RPL Board also approved an amendment to the Capital Improvement Program.

Lastly, she shared that the RPL Board had a lengthy discussion about fines elimination and what information they want before considering a full elimination of fines for RPL.

Other Business

Mr. Brandt asked for an update on the Foodlink Café. Ms. Uttaro reported they are doing well and are celebrating their 1st anniversary next week with a free tasting.

Dr. Knapp asked about the Criterium bike races. Ms. Smathers and Ms. Uttaro answered that the Rundel Building is used by the race organizers and a couple of library staff members will be working a table.

Ms. Stockman reminded everyone that the next meeting on June 20, will be in person.

Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Hessney Lynch AND SECONDED BY Mr. Corcoran to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary