

New Haven Free Public Library
Library Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting
April 25, 2023

Virtual Members Present: Dr. Anderson, Alder Morrison, Ms. Sykes, Mr. Cruz, Ms. Lamar, Mr. Giering

Members Absent: Ms. Schneider Ms. Logan

Staff Present: Maureen Sullivan, Regina Rush-Kittle, Luis Chavez-Brumell, Rory Martorana, and Maria Bernhey

Welcome

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the March 2023 Minutes. Ms. Merson moved, Ms. Lamar seconded, and without any questions or comments, the Board voted to approve the Minutes and Consent Agenda.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Lamar provided an overview of the library financials

Transfer request to the Library endowment for the remaining of the Stetson funds of \$995,804.78 moved by Ms. Lamar and seconded by Ms. Morrison

Ms. Lamar shared possibilities of the Florence Russell Fund being used to support staff development with payments for the Urban Libraries Council dues and as a discussion item for another meeting.

Director's Report

Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Chavez-Brumell delivered the Director's Report.

Staffing

Mr. Chavez-Brumell shared that offers for Library Technical Assistants have been made to candidates which will support the Library's hiring needs.

NHFPL Foundation Board updates

Mr. Chavez-Brumell shared that the Library Foundation board has a new executive board with Mary Ellen Savage serving as President, Sean Koehler serving as Vice President, and Tom Haskell serving as Treasurer. Mr. Chavez-Brumell encouraged participation in the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven's Great Give 2023.

Connecticut Library Association Conference

Mr. Chavez-Brumell shared that he and several colleagues were presenting at the upcoming Connecticut Library Association Conference on May 1st and 2nd.

Ives Main Library as inclement weather site for Griffin Health

Mr. Chavez-Brumell shared that office space had been prepared at the Ives Main Library to serve as an inclement weather site for the Griffin Health team stationed on the Green on Wednesdays or Saturdays as needed for the spring.

Library Budget Presentation April 10th

Ms. Sullivan shared that she appeared before the Board of Alders Finance Committee on April 10th and stated that the Library would make the move from the Chief Administrative Office to the Community Services Administration work. Ms. Sullivan is optimistic to work with Dr. Dalal and the Community Services Administration. Ms. Sullivan also impressed the importance of the Library being allocated one percent of the City's budget to support operations including staffing.

City of New Haven Human Resources Webinars

Ms. Sullivan shared that she distributed information on upcoming webinars from City of New Haven Human Resources Director Marcela Garcia with Library Managers and that Director Garcia would visit an upcoming Library Managers meeting on May 4th.

City Librarian Interviews

Ms. Sullivan shared that planning for successful City Librarian interviews on May 5th and 6th are well underway.

Meeting room/tutor room policy review

Board decided it was best to table meeting room policy proposal and to streamline language to clarify issues around priority of meeting room usage.

Privacy Policy Proposal

Mr. Chavez-Brumell gave a brief overview of the policy proposal which will be reviewed in greater detail in the May meeting.

City Librarian Search update

The search for the City Librarian opened with a closing date of April 2nd. Finalists will visit New Haven on May 5th and 6th with tours and staff forums during the day, a reception for candidates and invited community members on Friday evening, and interviews during the day on Saturday.

Board members who can attend *all* interviews are welcome to attend, participate fully, and join Search Committee deliberations immediately following interviews.

Board member terms and nominations

Ms. Schneider shared that she and Mr. Giering sent a list of interested potential board members to the Library Board. Ms. Schneider stated that she hopes to present a slate at the May meeting. Mr. Giering asked board members to send any other names for potential board members. Dr. Anderson spoke with Barbara Montalvo in City Hall and did not receive any additional names for potential board members from the City of New Haven.

City Librarian Portrait

Dr. Anderson reported that local artist Frank Bruckmann has completed the portrait of late City Librarian John Jessen. There is a plan to have a portrait unveiling celebration in June and the possibility of having the portrait travel to the different library branches during the summer.

Executive Session

Dr. Anderson called for a motion to enter Executive Session for discussion about City Librarian Search finalists; Claudia Merson motioned; Andrew Giering seconded. Executive session began at 6:55pm and ended at 7:20pm

Public Comment

Ms. Lamar shared that the Westville Artwalk starts May 8th at the Mitchell Branch

Dr. Anderson shared that the upcoming weekend is Independent Bookstore Day.

Alder Morrison shared that May 22nd is the Special Budget Session when the proposed budget is voted on.

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Merson motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Lamar, and the meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Luis Chavez-Brumell
Deputy Director