

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

**Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
Grove Hall Branch Library
41 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the Grove Hall Branch Library, 41 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121 at 2:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were: Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee- Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Committee Members: Sarah-Ann Shaw and Che Madyun, Friends of the Dudley Branch Library. Also attending were Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Project Manager, Pete Coco, Assistant Neighborhood Services Manager, Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services, and Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board. Allen Knight, Dudley Branch Librarian was not present along with a member of the public.

Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming and addressed the first item of business: Approval of the Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2017. After review, and some discussion relative to the minutes, a motion was duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee meeting held on September 19, 2017 were approved.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz discussed the Committee Financial Report, and pointed to the FY18 carry-over, distribution, and remaining balance columns of the report. She noted that the funds have done very well and praised the Finance and Audit Committee for ensuring good investments were made and the results are reflected.

Next, Ms. Foley, Neighborhood Services Manager gave a brief update on the Dudley Library renovation. She explained that construction was underway and demolition had begun on the interior of the building. “The Word” artwork was going to be removed, and cleaned by the City’s conservators. Then it will be stored at a secured location. Ms. Foley added that the Dudley library staff have been placed around the system and Allen Knight is helping at Chinatown while they are in transit for a permanent librarian. The staff is still doing outreach in the Dudley community, they have flyers, posted on social media, church groups, etc. After some discussion the Chair moved onto Ms. Silva-Collins to review the 2017-18 programs to date.

Ms. Silva-Collins presented a slide show to the Committee as she discussed the programs. She began by reviewing the piano classes that were held at the Boston Conservatory. There were four sessions that could accommodate up to 9 children at each; they averaged 4-5 children per session. She suggested over subscribing next time with expected attrition to occur.

Next, she discussed The Makanda Project Concert that was held in November in the Boling Building. It is always popular and was well attended.

Youth Arts for Social Change Conference and Job Fair was held at Hibernian Hall and she noted Dudley staff attended and helped facilitate discussions.

Tracing our Roots Workshop with Joel Mackall had a little drop in attendance over the session but those that lasted, had meaningful results. He also worked with seniors on Smart Phone workshops and they are always well attended. They were held at the Freedom House.

Crazy Quilts Making is targeted toward seniors as there is a senior building next door. There were seniors that came every day and held a very captive group that helped develop their skills. Ms. Silva-Collins suggested an intergenerational session after Dudley reopens.

Play Reading Book Club had three plays and will have a teen play in April. This is a very successful program that is very well attended. They were held at the Hibernian Hall in the conference room. She noted that Dudley is where the Play Reading started, now there are several groups around the city (including Mattapan, South End and downtown). Three of the other groups got together at Emerson College to collaborate in March.

Ms. Silva-Collins added that Friends of Dudley meeting and the Dudley Book Club (which are not funded by the Fellowes) but she noted it showed a sense of the people using the programs.

The Committee discussed the challenges regarding the locations, the grantees, and ease of the community to access the programs. With no further questions, they moved onto the Grant Application for 2018-2019 and Timeline.

Ms. Silva presented the anticipated timeline for the programmatic plan for 2018-2019 which included: draft Request for Proposals (RFPs) and refunded applications accepted on June 4, 2018, approval of the RFPs, technical assistance sessions, Notice of Intent to apply deadline, committee deliberations, and grant notifications. The Board of Trustees will take a formal vote in September. The anticipated program start date is November 1, 2018.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked if Ms. Silva-Collins found anything that they did that she would like to see continue next year. Ms. Silva-Collins expressed that offering the invitation for RFPs to only successful programs was something she would like to do again. She noted a few concerns she had regarding some current grantees but she was hopeful. She noted that for future branches in similar situation with branch closures, suggested doing outreach approximately six months out to review costs of using other spaces, knowing the distances from the branch, and laying some ground work early with church and community groups.

Next, Ms. Silva-Collins discussed the results of the survey that reflected the activities the community wanted from the Library. She noted they were Children, teens, adults, and cultural programming. She noted that the programs that those granted fits all of those parameters.

Ms. Silva-Collins suggested that summer programming is often asked about. She would like to consider this in their future programming but suggested tabling the discussion until after the branch reopens as a possibility.

The group agreed to meet in May and the Clerk will make arrangements to secure the Grove Hall library.

With no new business, the Chair asked for public comment. Bruce Beckerstan, member of the Dudley library, asked as a concerned citizen of the upcoming renovations of the Dudley Library. He was concerned about the safety of the sculpture “The Word”. Ms. Foley explained that it was in process of being removed, will be professionally cleansed and stored off site. Mr. Beckerstan asked if it is possible when the BPL staff has public meetings regarding the construction, are they posting the meeting dates for the public. He continued by asking if possible to have the artwork backlit when it is reinstalled. Ms. Foley responded they can bring this suggestion up at the Percent for Art meeting in the fall.

With no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela R. Carver