

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Governance and Development Committee Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. Orientation Room, Central Library 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

MINUTES

A meeting of the Boston Public Library Trustees Governance and Development Committee (“Committee”) was held on Thursday, April 12, 2018, 8:30 a.m. at Boston Public Library (“BPL”), Central Library in Copley Square.

Members present included, Committee Chair John Hailer and Committee members: Representative Byron Rushing, Ben Bradlee, Jr., Cheryl Cronin, and President David Leonard.

Also present were Boston Public Library Clerk of the Board Pamela Carver along with Head of Special Collections Beth Prindle, and members of the public.

Chair John Hailer presiding, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Hailer began with the first matter of business, approval of the meeting minutes from the January 29, 2018 meeting. With no edits made, a motion was duly made, seconded and voted to approve the meeting minutes from the January 29, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Hailer moved the meeting to the topic of the nomination process. He noted there were no updates in regards to additional board members at this time. He stated that the strategy and implementation as it evolves will balance the various needs to be represented on the Board without losing any of the value of community representation in the process. An initial goal will be to document the BPL and affiliate board structures and the governing documents for the relationships.

Mr. Hailer invited Mr. Leonard to review the strategy implementation. Mr. Leonard stated that he has met with the Barr Foundation who have agreed to fund an additional phase of work with the consultants, Kubler Wirka, to assist the BPL more specifically on implementation and execution of the strategy. And specifically to work on the shared governance issues that span the relationships between the BPL and the new affiliate structure and the new lead fundraising entity. He stated that it was determined the new entity would be called the “BPL Fund” (removing the word “Futures” per their previous discussions). He added that for now the implementation step is to migrate, the old BPL Foundation to become the new BPL Fund.

Mr. Leonard added that since they last met, they held two funders meetings, both at The Boston Foundation. The first was looking back on the last year of accomplishments and articulating the vision moving forward. The Mayor attended and spoke on behalf of the library. It was very well attended feedback has been extremely positive. The second meeting was with twelve local leading funding organizations with a view towards a capacity grant process for the new BPL Fund, to give it an early stage funding runway. There were three key pieces of feedback that emerged from this meeting. First was they wanted to see a couple of names of those who will be considered for the Steering Committee and help with the launch of the fund. Second, to understand exactly how the BPL is proposing to manage the affiliates structure (particularly the Leventhal Map Center and the Associates) and hear details as to what was agreed to before committing to a possible funding initiative. Third, to see some formalized documentation around the City and Mayor’s support of this process. The goal would be to have this group reconvene to discuss this further. Mr. Leonard added that he has had several conversations with the Map Center’s Board leadership and the Associates leadership with the goal of reaching Memorandums of

Understanding (“MOU”). The committee discussed having Memorandums of Understanding with each formal entity (Associates, Map Center, the BPL Fund, and ultimately the Friends groups).

Mr. Hailer directed the committee to review the four active trustee committees: Finance and Audit, Special Collections, Governance, Development, and Nominating Committee, and the Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee along with the list of several inactive committees. This included committees: Capital projects, Marketing and Fundraising, Neighborhood Services, Technology Task Force, Bromsen Lecture Committee, Education Committee, and Joint Government & Community Relations. Mr. Leonard suggested that they look at the structure of the committees, particularly the Special Collections committee. Its membership has only one trustee and several external members, several members have not attended a meeting therefore, jeopardizing quorum and not participating in important votes regarding the collection. Representative Rushing suggested dissolving the older, inactive committees. Ms. Cronin agreed, suggesting that the roles of the Board and the Board’s committees should be very clear. The BPL could look remiss by having committees on the docket that are not populating. She added that the Board of Trustees is to be about governing and not management. The Board needs to be sure to support the President in his management of the Library. Mr. Hailer agreed and the committee took a vote to clean up the list of committees to only reflect the four active committees of: Finance and Audit Committee, Special Collections Committee, Fellowes Athenaeum Committee and Governance and Development. A motion was made, seconded and,

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Governance and Development Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to keep the four Trustees committees of : Finance and Audit, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory, Special Collections and Governance, Development, and Nominating Committees. The remaining committees of Capital projects, Marketing and Fundraising, Neighborhood Services, Technology Task Force, Bromsen Lecture Committee, Education Committee, and Joint Government & Community Relations shall be considered inactive and therefore moved to archive as past committees.”

Mr. Leonard noted with respect to the Special Collections Committee, the focus has been on Rare Books, manuscripts, prints and photography and lesser extent on Fine Arts, music, and architectural collections in recent years. He suggested there is an opportunity to have deeper expertise from the community to serve on the committee. He emphasized that he was not suggesting an overhaul of the membership, but rather change of a few members who have not attended several meetings over the last couple of years. The committee discussed with Beth Prindle on her suggestions and thoughts on the committee as it currently stands. They all agreed that the Committee should have two trustees at a minimum. Mr. Hailer thanked Representative Rushing for his long serving commitment to this committee. Ben Bradlee volunteered to be considered for this committee.

Mr. Leonard stated that the consensus of the committee was to move forward with some small changes to the existing committee and begin considering to revise the current charter of the Special Collections committee to reflect the focus on partnership and collection depth. Including an environmental piece and come back to this group with a new plan.

Mr. Hailer moved onto the Nominations before the committee. He presented the presented the slate of officers for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019: Robert Gallery for Chair, Evelyn Arana-Ortiz for Vice

Chair, and Pamela Carver for Clerk of the Board. With no other nominations, on a motion made and duly seconded, it was

VOTED: “that, the Trustees Governance and Development Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees of the Public Library for the City of Boston approve the Slate of Officers of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston and the Clerk of the Board for the period May 2018 through May 2019.”

Mr. Hailer then noted that they are currently working on the process of filling the open Board seats and will take that to a future session when they have something to report.

He asked if there was any New Business to which there was none. The Board discussed the future schedule of the committee’s meetings and all agreed that meeting quarterly would be appropriate but would meet more if there was a need. They agreed to meet again in June, September, and possibly in December. No meeting dates were determined. The committee noted they preferred to have the committee meetings held at the Central Library.

The Chair asked for Public Comment. David Vieira, member of the City-Wide Friends, noted that the Capital project committee has not met for several years, but due to the amount of activity, a little more oversight on those Capital projects would be beneficial to the trustees. He highly recommended reactivating the Capital Projects Committee. Mr. Vieira added that the Neighborhood Services Committee would provide an opportunity to the Board to have more interaction with the neighborhood friends groups and the community as a whole. John Hailer thanked him for his comments and noted they will take them under advisement.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela Carver