

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Governance and Development Committee
Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
Kirstein Business Center Exchange, 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, March 7, 2019 at Boston Public Library (“BPL”), Central Library in Copley Square.

Present at the meeting were Committee members: Cheryl Cronin, Ben Bradlee. Representative Byron Rushing and President, David Leonard. The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Robert Gallery also attended. Committee chair John Hailer was not present due to a travel conflict.

Also present: Caroline Driscoll, Legal Advisor and Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board, along with members of the public.

Ms. Cronin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and confirmed there was a quorum. She addressed the review and approval of the Minutes of the September 14, 2018 committee meeting. With no comments or edits suggested, upon a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of September 14, 2018 were approved.

Next, President David Leonard gave an update on the nomination of board members. He explained that the Mayor has to officially appoint any new board members, however they are hopeful that recommendations of the BPL will be considered moving forward. He noted that they recommended the appointment of Jeff Hawkins, and both the Mayor and Mr. Hawkins were enthusiastic. Mr. Leonard remains hopeful this will be solidified in the coming months. Mr. Gallery added the intention of going from nine to fifteen trustees would be to have each of the 501(c)(3) organizations represented on the board. Although work is being done toward new collaborative efforts with the BPL and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), they are not prepared to take that step at this time. The BPL is prepared to move forward with Jeff Hawkins and noted that he has made a significant difference to the BPL. Mr. Gallery clarified this is merely putting the offer on the table without an official Mayoral nomination. Representative asked for the minutes to clearly reflect that the Committee was taking a vote to move the recommendation for appointment to the Board of Trustees to the Mayor who is the appointing authority. It was noted that at any point the Mayor could reject the Board of Trustees’ recommendation. Ms. Cronin called for a motion that was duly made and seconded and,

VOTED: “that the Governance and Development Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the recommendation for the appointment of Jeff Hawkins for the Board of Trustees to Mayor Martin J. Walsh.”

After some discussion, Mr. Leonard added that after the MOUs are finalized, names may be put forward for consideration. The Associates have expressed through Chair Gallery there is a strong desire to remain independent. . The committee members noted receiving the invitation to the Associates annual “Literary Lights” event and pointing out it was less than two months before the Fund for the BPL’s Gala. Ms. Cronin wanted the record to reflect that she found it completely inappropriate for the Associates to host this event approximately six weeks before the mainstay Gala of the BPL that is honoring Mayor Walsh. Mr. Gallery noted this is an annual event of the Associates, but moving forward, hoped more cohesive planning with events will be considered.

Mr. Leonard moved on to discuss the launch of the Fund for the Boston Public Library with the consent of the remaining members of the BPL Foundation. Funding has been secured to support the search for the Executive Director of this new entity and the process is underway. Under the leadership of Bob Gallery, a small Steering Committee of interested individuals from the broader philanthropic community has been formed, led by Michael Keating. One of their tasks is to find new board members for the BPL Fund which will be the successor for the existing Foundation under the new working title “Boston Public Library Fund”.

Mr. Leonard moved onto the next agenda topic of the Steering Committee update. He noted the committee is led by Michael Keating who was leading them from the old Foundation to the new Fund. The search for the Executive Director proved successful. The selected candidate will start on April 8th. She will also serve as Director of Development for the BPL. As far as the remaining Foundation officers, three have expressed interest to stay on for the early transition.

Mr. Leonard explained there is a new name and revised by-laws but remains the same 501(c)(3). Mr. Gallery noted the Executive Director salary comes 100% from the Fund. As this new development began to emerge, the first of seven large grants has come in from the Barr Foundation, who granted \$500,000 to the Fund for capacity building. Mr. Gallery explained there are several more that are on the same order of magnitude for this purpose. Mr. Leonard gave the committee a brief overview of the interview and selection process for the Executive Director and answered a few administrative questions of the Committee.

Next, Mr. Leonard announced the plans for the Gala for the Fund on Friday, June 7, 2019 were advancing with nine co-chairs at the \$250,000 level. The Committee discussed other opportunities for sponsorship and community involvement. Mr. Gallery noted that it took a lot of hard work, but they have raised over two million dollars already. Mr. Leonard noted the event will take place in the Johnson Building and hope to make this an annual event. Ms. Cronin thanked both Mr. Gallery and Mr. Leonard on their efforts and noted it speaks to the public’s love of the Library. Mr. Leonard thanked Connie Chin from the Map Center and Ben Hires, Director of Strategic Partnerships for their efforts. Stating that the Co-Chairs that sponsored at this level shows there is a great love and celebration of the Library and puts the educational mission in the forefront. It also puts the needs of the BPL forward.

Moving on to the next matter on the agenda, Ms. Cronin asked if there was any new business for which there was none.

Ms. Cronin asked for Public Comment. Ms. Louisa Stephens, Executive Director of the Associates responded to the concerns of the Committee regarding their Literary Lights event scheduled in April. She noted that the Associates support the BPL’s efforts for the Gala and regret the optics make it appear that the events are only six weeks apart, and in no way trying to upstage the Fund’s Gala. She congratulated the Board on their success of the chairs thus far and wished them continual success. She explained the Literary Lights events is annually held in April the evening before the Boston Marathon due to discounts offered but was open to future discussions to host it at another time of year moving forward.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela R. Carver, Clerk of the Board