

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation and Administrative Agency

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

via Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

A Meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston as a Corporation and Administrative Agency was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 via Zoom at 8:30 a.m..

Present at the meeting were: Chair, Robert Gallery and Vice-Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz and Trustees: Zamawa Arenas, Jabari Asim, Ben Bradlee, Priscilla Douglas, Linda Dorcena Forry, John Hailer, Jeff Hawkins, and Representative Chynah Tyler. Cheryl Cronin was not present due to being ill. Also present were: David Leonard, President, Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board, along with BPL staff and members of the public.

Chair Robert Gallery called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and addressed the order of business. Mr. Gallery thanked everyone for their presence and wished everyone a happy new year. A roll call was taken and determined there was a quorum. Mr. Gallery called for the approval of the minutes of the last meeting. With no edits or comments, a motion was duly made and seconded. The Trustees unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of November 17, 2020 through a roll call vote. Members of the public were reminded the meeting was being recorded and to sign up to give public comment via the chat feature of the Zoom call.

David Leonard was asked to give the President's report. Mr. Leonard began by reading into record his email sent to all staff in response to the insurrection at the Capitol the week prior.

"Likely, like many of you over the last few hours I have been following incredibly disturbing, frightening and ultimately sad news about what has been transpiring at the Capitol in Washington DC. While I understand what I saw earlier, words are failing me to explain what I saw and I have many questions. What I watched earlier was not protest it was something else entirely, a riot or something worse. And yes there has been loss of life as a result. And once again questions revolve around the role of law enforcement and proportionate response.

I hope that greater clarity will emerge. I hope that questions will be answered. I hope there will be no more loss of life; and I hope that those who committed crimes will be held accountable. Today was [meaning January 6th] and is to be an important legal and ceremonial milestone along the path from voting in a Presidential Election to Inauguration. Today, however was a deviation from ensuring the type of peaceful transfer of power that our democracy is known for.

As I draft this note the Senate has reconvened and reengaged with their duties. I find some comfort in this fact and indeed in opening statements I have just listened to by the Vice President and both Senators McConnell and Schumer.

This has been a blow to democracy, and exposes again not just our divisions in our society, but a reminder that we cannot make progress where society cannot distinguish truth from fiction where everyone is not treated equitably where unacceptable behavior is not called out and when groups believe that they are not just entitled to express opinions freely but are entitled to their own reality. While we too at BPL will from time to time have our own internal difference of policy, method, focus or opinion, and our own challenges; we need each other's support and society needs our work for the sake of democracy.

Although not how we might put things today, I am again reminded of the words on the McKim Building 'The Commonwealth Requires the Education of the People as the Safeguard of Order and Liberty'."

Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board-DRAFT

Mr. Leonard continued with his report. He explained that a new initiative that several BPL staff had been working on was just announced whose theme was called “Repairing America” . The initiative aimed to organize several programs and services in a way that can deliberately and intentionally help bridge gaps that divide America. The main themes include economic recovery, civic engagement and discourse, COVID-19 recovery, racial equity, workforce development, and youth engagement.

The BPL continued to offer robust online services and programming throughout the system with BPL to Go services, and limited in-person computer sessions. They continued to monitor staff closely and address anyone who tested positive for the virus or came in close contact, to reinforce the messaging of wearing masks, sanitizing hands, and abiding by social distancing guidelines.

Mr. Leonard announced Mayor Walsh was nominated by President Biden to serve as the Secretary of Labor. Pending his appointment is finalized, the BPL would engage with the transition of Councilor Janey accordingly.

Zamawa Arenas and other Trustees supported Mr. Leonard’s statement and thanked him for his strong and truthful statement, as well as his leadership during this difficult time. Priscilla Douglas echoed Ms. Arenas’ comments and thanked Mayor Walsh for being a staunch advocate and supporter of the BPL.

Mr. Leonard moved onto updating on Collection related matters. Laura Inscher, Chief of Collections was invited to brief the group on usage statistics during the COVID period and explain some changes made to the ordering process. Ms. Imscher explained that since March 16, 2020, there have been 66,719 e-card registrations, which is an increase of 50% from the registrations of the prior year. They have loaned 242,476 physical items and have loaned 2.9 million digital items across the various platforms.

Ms. Imscher explained the updated collection ordering plan was implemented in December after an extensive evaluation and revision process done in the fall. The plan addressed operational challenges as well as the evolving patron needs. The plan will deliver a collection that is diverse and responsive to local communities around the city; using a model that combines benefits of a systemized approach that incorporates expertise of various librarians at each branch location.

The pandemic shed light on long standing issues of inefficiency in the ordering practices and also a lack of diversity in the collections. The improved plan will address workflow delays and bottlenecks that were experienced internally due to staffing issues due to COVID and with vendors.

Ms. Imscher explained the configuration of the Collection Development Department and the ordering process. Beyond this department there were three significant ways for staff to be involved in the collection building: dedicated funding streams for librarians at each location, the 17 selection teams that select by interest/subject, and the third area was suggestions by titles and subjects (which is ongoing for all staff and patrons alike). She continued that other considerations for the collections will be made by working groups, such as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working group to help support the BPL’s racial equity action plan. Time will be needed to assess the effects and changes COVID will have on collection usage. They plan to review and evaluate the success of the plan and make improvements needed.

She gave a brief budget snapshot of how the collections are funded. The collective FY21 budget of approximately \$4 million comes from city funding, state funding, and donor gifts. She noted that of this budget, \$140,000 or 10% of the total amount spent on physical material, is set aside for local branch selection which was equivalent to about \$7,500 per branch. The Trustees had a brief discussion on the budget allocation and support services for digital materials and programming.

Mr. Ellen Donaghey, Chief Financial Officer, gave a high level update on the submitted FY22 Maintenance budget. She explained the maintenance budget describes the cost to do next year what was initially intended to be done this year. The figures are based on the previous year budget. She explained that there was a relatively minor increase of 1% to the budget, with the major cost driver being employee salaries. She noted that both union contracts were out of date which may include cost of living increases and step increases in salary.

Mr. Leonard added that in addition to the maintenance budget submission, they also submit potential reductions, new initiatives and some reform ideas to the City. The reduction model spans between the maintenance budget described and up to a 5% reduction in operating costs. The underlying fiscal realities for the city and priorities for the next year will govern where on that spectrum the BPL's budget will ultimately fall. Mr. Leonard noted that once they receive feedback they will be able to provide more details on what the final version of the submitted budget to City Council will look like. Mr. Leonard concluded his President's report.

Next, Ms. Arana-Ortiz gave the Finance & Audit Committee updates. She provided some background on Dr. Karamechedis who left a generous gift of \$235,710 to the BPL to establish a fund used solely for the preservation and/or conservation of the library's collection. She explained the vote was to accept this gift. A motion was duly made, seconded and voted to approve unanimously by roll call vote.

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston accept a donation in the amount of two hundred thirty five thousand and seven hundred ten dollars and zero cents (\$235,710) from the Estate of Dr. Miltiades Karamechedis to establish the ‘The Dr. Karamechedis Preservation and Restoration Fund’. The funds are to be used solely for the preservation and/or conservation of the Library’s Collection.”

Ms. Arana-Ortiz explained the next vote was to request approval for delegation to the Finance & Audit Committee for approval of two E-rate contracts for federal grants that have very strict deadlines, requiring a quicker approval to meet the tight timelines. A motion was duly made, seconded, and voted unanimously via a roll call vote.

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston delegate approval of any E-rate contracts during the period between February 2021 and May 2021 to the Finance and Audit Committee.”

The final vote was to delegate to the Finance and Audit Committee the approval of the security contract. This contract was due to expire, and as customary, the BPL would be issuing a Request for Proposal (“RFP”). The RFP will need approval before the next Board meeting and therefore will need to be voted on in a timely manner. With no questions or comments, a motion was duly made, seconded and voted to approve by unanimous roll call vote.

VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston delegate approval of the Security Contract to the Finance and Audit Committee.”

Mr. Gallery thanked the Karamechedis family for their generous donation. He asked for any New Business for which there was none. Mr. Gallery called for any Public Comment. The process to sign up for Public Comment was explained. Questions made would be answered at a later time and encouraged those seeking follow up to reach out to the clerk to provide their email addresses.

Reginald Jackson was heartened to hear the opening remarks by David Leonard and many members of the Trustees relative to the current situation as they were challenging democracy. They wanted to applaud

that recognition. They heard about the equity across the branches and the feedback of patrons. Their comment was more of a query to understand, much to their chagrin, how the Roxbury library got its name. Across the branches are named after their location. They were a longtime resident of Roxbury over forty years, and currently live in the Nubian Square. They were very disappointed not to be able to look forward to the library not being named Nubian Sq. Library, after much effort by the Mayor and residents of the area. Resoundingly express their positive support of the naming of the Square and transit stop. They want to know why the people who lived here did not have a chance to understand why it was renamed Roxbury Library.

Stephen T, just wanted to have comment and a query on the collection strategy discussion. One of the trustees wisely asked about the definitions of words like “diversity” and “equity” as it will be used in the collection plan. Ms. Irmscher was using the operative definitions as presented by the YW strategic decision making process. Their question was of the order of operations and why this fundamental change was being made before that process was complete and being cloaked in those terminologies before there was an operative definition of them. Why not wait instead until after such process that the library has made a public commitment towards anti-racist actions was completed and have operative definitions of those terms that can be used to implement from the ground up, rather than trying to retroactively fit?

Paula Core, resident of Roxbury in total agreement with Mr. Jackson. They have documents in writing that there would be a community meeting to Mr. Kambon. They had no input as residents of the community. Next thing you know it was called the Roxbury Library with no meeting. We in the community want to have this meeting. Due to lack of transparency, those in the community, that live in community, should have a say of the name of this library. This would not have happened if you followed protocol. She gave examples of branches named after the area. Mr. Gallery noted Mr. Kambon did participate in the discussion at the Board meeting. And noted for the record that the Trustees have no intention on reopening this issue at this point in time, it was renamed the Roxbury Library. Ms. Core stated that it was unacceptable and would be making further issues around this.

Claire Waldron-Gross, commented on the collection policy and demystify the collections process. She was the Children’s Librarian at Egleston Square branch for eight years. Up until March, every month, she was able to see comprehensive lists and reviews, through the vendor of almost all new children’s books available for purchase. She was able to weigh value to each one to the community and build a collection responsive to Egleston Square. She could choose accordingly with broad, balanced, and culturally competent choices. It allowed her them to have a deep knowledge about everything on the shelf, which is systemized through that ordering process. It informs programs, outreach and reference instruction. All that work informs the collection work library, which is multifaceted. When you try to silo it, the quality will suffer. That is what this plan does, even if the librarian is on a selection team, they do not see everything that is coming out, just the sliver that they are responsible for. Librarians can suggest books for a location but not suggest the need. At many of the feedback meetings, which were not discussions, librarians were told that it does not matter where a book is shelved because patrons can just request it. This is a very privileged mindset and ignores the patrons who rely on the branch system the most. It removes librarian power to choose the collection.

Celeste Boccachino-Chaudri, Children’s librarian at Roslindale Branch and on the Equitable Collections Committee of the PSA Union. She too wanted to comment on the Collections Development Plan. She wanted to talk a little about the money. She knows that Laura Irmscher stated they were starting to have line item budget for branches which they had not had in a long time. She was very happy to hear that and thought it was a great step in the right direction. She asked how that money compared to what they had to spend monthly. The monthly allocations were comparatively \$2,500 for branch materials. She noted that the annual distribution was approximately \$600 less each branch. They wanted to know how they derived that amount. She also asked for clarification regarding diversity to piggy back on earlier comments made by Stephen regarding timing of diversity and operations.

Kay Sweeney was a community member who often checks out books from the Copley Library. She wanted to advocate the book selection not be centralized as people had mentioned. Librarians and the communities they serve are much more diverse than the centralized leadership of the BPL. To remain responsive and continue to build trust with diverse and underserved communities, asked that they please do not centralize them. Although not a librarian, her understanding was that this plan is largely opposed by librarians and community members, and the decision was not being made democratically. It could not possibly be about improving diversity if it was also done against the wishes of the diverse communities and librarians.

David Vieira, City-Wide Friends member, wanted to piggy back on Ms. Sweeney's discussion of the autonomy of ordering books went back a long way, and goes back to former administration. Many books that were donated, were removed from the collection, Discussion needed to be discussed at the branch level and the library could do better with offering the branches in ordering. He also wanted to point out that he heard nothing at all about the ability of branch librarians to accept books into the collection that have indeed been donated to the collection by local patrons in honor of an event or the passing of a person, and the involvement of the community members in this process was very important. It shows they support and defend their local library system. He hoped this continued to be an ongoing and informed good discussion.

Elissa Cadillic, President of AFSCME, 1526. She wanted to remind the Trustees that the work her members were doing during this pandemic. They were the first group to return to in-person service. The Facilities Department was keeping our buildings safe for staff and our patrons. The Shipping Department was moving materials around the system. The Welcome Services and Tech Central staff were servicing the in-person computer sessions. The Borrower Services staff were maintaining almost full day services. Branch staff were handling the in-person holds of BPL to Go and/or reporting to support these services. Many were taking public transportation during this time while trying to figure out child and elder care, and did not have the luxury of working fully remote. Their stress levels continued to rise. They understood there may be hard budget discussions and understood choices had to be made due to physical issues. She hoped this Board would agree that services and staff should have a higher priority over new initiatives and budget accordingly. Many had lived through the 2009-2010 years, and she requested we take a different path this time by having good faith discussions. Laura Irmischer described the revised plan for moving forward on collection development. We think much of it makes sense. We are all in a pandemic and we much adapt. However, AFSCME 1526 members have brought up that branch librarians had been colorblind when ordering for their neighborhoods by the overwhelmingly white representation of librarian staff in our diverse neighborhoods. My members voiced suggestions and have largely been ignored and this plan does not do anything to enhance the relationship between librarians, and her diverse membership in these communities. What this plan does was reduce the AFSCME membership and their expertise, to the same as a generic purchase. She also asked that security members become BPL employees as they were in the past and AFSCME represented department. She was happy to discuss further if needed.

Anne Langone, President of the PSA union which represented the librarians. She noted there were approximately 165 members. They were against this collections policy. She noted there were some great parts to it, training and opportunities for professional development in collection development matters. We loved the part about being able to order books from more than one vendor, because it also enhances diversity and it made sense for a system of the BPL's size to be able to order from more than one vendor. She loved that there were diversity audits; lots of good things. She added but to its core, what the plan does was take the selection ability away from all or most of the branch librarians, and puts it in the hands of four other librarians that do not work with the public. It meant centralized collections, it meant the depth of the individual and particular branch collections where there had to be room for. There was no reason they couldn't have diversity audits, increased trainings, a steady stream of revenue without having to take the other bullet. It did not make sense that things would become more diverse when all the

ordering power was to be put in the hands of four librarians. They are unhappy with it and how it was rolled out at the Roxbury branch. She noted that the community was against it; over 600 people had written letters to David Leonard asking for him to reconsider.

Sadiki Kambon, Chairman of the Nubian Square Coalition, responded to Mr. Jackson and Ms. Core's comments regarding the library name in Nubian Square. He would like to transfer that vote that was taken on May 26, 2020 orchestrated by Mr. Gallery, and have it declared null and void. What was mentioned was the fact that he had received written correspondence from the office of Mr. Leonard, essentially stating that in regards to the library name change in Nubian Square, in fact the May 26, 2020 meeting, there would be "no vote taken" because Mr. Leonard assured us that we wanted to have a community meeting to get input to determine the new name. As a coalition requested once again, that the vote from May 26, 2020 be declared null and void. The Trustee Board make a determination that the promise made would be fulfilled with a community meeting, getting community input on the final name. He echoed the comments of Mr. Jackson, it was Nubian Square and Nubian Station, and that the residents made it very clear that the preference for the library be Nubian Library. Would like a democratic process and not dictatorship in terms of the final name because they did not believe that what Mr. Gallery orchestrated was spontaneous. He felt there was in fact a plan to have it named Roxbury Library and to not allow community input and he wanted it changed.

Akunna Eneh, Librarian at the Roxbury Branch, wanted to offer suggestion about the conversation about diversity, more specifically defining it and how to think about it. She listened to the comments and felt there was an issue. Being a resident of Boston, she was very familiar with the issue of diversity and inclusion becoming meaningless as it is said because it was mentioned more and more. She felt that what was missing was the actual voices, opinions, thoughts, and interested of people who do the work, who were working directly with a diverse set of patrons. She clarified when saying "diverse", most of the time, it referred to people of color, people who have been marginalized at every level in society, and not just a blanket diversity and inclusion. She noted there were a number of issues where the people are not heard, or invited to in a genuine way, to participate in decision making. She offered that the part of the discussion of "what diversity means" should not be just a checklist of how many black, brown, or indigenous can you see in a picture. She echoed Elissa Cadillac's comments on not just shutting out librarians, but other staff, in general as well that work at the library. It is not just one person, in their own head picking books, but rather it is the patrons and other co-workers of all levels that help determine what would be best and where to shelve it.

Marie Firmin, a lifelong resident of Roxbury and President of the Black Business Development Corp., LLC. They organize businesses in the community to develop sustainability in terms of servicing the community. She wanted to ask people to write down all the names of the libraries and take note that there were no names that represented diversity. Ruggles Street does not represent diversity but Nubian Library does. She said they did not fight to get 70% of the vote there in Roxbury to name Nubian Square for nothing. The library was a part of Nubian Square and should be named as such. Those who were fearful of that, fearful that they would take over their own community that they built; a community that her mother and grandmother built, they have the issue, not them. They will fight for Nubian Library because it represented them, the community, and was diverse.

Laura Gang, of the Roslindale Friends, thanked the Library for launching the "Repairing America" initiative. She had two questions related to it. First, does the BPL staff see a role for friends groups in making it as successful as it could be. Second, is there any provision for staffing or financial help for the branches that are currently closed. She was not suggesting you put this on Celeste, the Roslindale Branch Children's librarian, because she was being overloaded with lots of extra work. Rather, she noted they could use some help in Roslindale and bet those around the Adams St. Branch could as well. She added that they would be out of commission for most of the year and would like to participate.

Mr. Gallery they do not often comment after public comments, but wanted to respond due to there being several librarians on the call. He let them know that their efforts to enable them to serve the patrons of the library, the citizens of Boston, and the Commonwealth were very much appreciated. He noted that all comments were always taken to heart and that the leadership team of the BPL takes these issues very seriously and always has. Ultimately, as in any enterprise, you come down on decisions that you believe are in the best interest of the library, its employees, and its patrons. He assured that any deliberation they have taken on that is always their intent and continues to be their intent.

Mr. Gallery thanked everyone for their presence and for their ongoing support of the library. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Carver

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED IN EVALUATING REQUESTS FOR NAMING OR RENAMING BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCHES BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

1. The person whose name is proposed is deceased.
2. The person has made substantial financial, political, or cultural contributions to the community of the named Branch.
3. The recommendation of the Mayor of Boston.
4. A favorable vote of the Boston City Council.
5. The favorable recommendation of the Friends of the Branch.
6. The favorable recommendation of the President of the Boston Public Library.

Adopted by the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston on March 25, 2003.

Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston
Jeffrey B. Rudman, Chairman; Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Vice Chair
Zamawa Arenas, Laura DeBonis, Carol Fulp, John Hailer
Paul A. La Camera, Dennis Lehane, Byron Rushing

President, Amy E. Ryan
Clerk of the Board, Deborah A. Kirrane



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

January 22, 2021

Dear Members of the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees,

I'm writing to offer my support of the petition to name the Adams Branch Library Community Room after Patricia O'Neill. Pat led the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association as president for 20 years, and became a cornerstone of the Dorchester community far beyond the boundaries of her corner of the neighborhood — she was the force behind such neighborhood traditions as the Dorchester Day Parade, the Dorchester Chili Cookoff, and the annual holiday tree lighting celebrations. Pat believed in bringing people together through civic engagement, and she believed in the power of neutral community spaces for civic, social, and educational dialogue and enrichment. A frequent patron of the Adams Branch Library, she valued the welcoming, diverse, inclusive, and most importantly, *educational* space the library provided for local residents, young and old.

Though she is no longer with us, Pat was a true force for good for Dorchester and for the entire City of Boston. I'm sure she would have been the first person rounding up residents and friends to mark the opening of the new branch this spring. I can confidently say she has made Dorchester a better neighborhood. Friends, family, and neighbors of Pat are strongly supportive of this and the Adams Branch Friends Group has unanimously voted to support the naming. I hope you will consider posthumously bestowing Pat with this great honor in memory of all her contributions to this neighborhood throughout her life.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS FRANK BAKER, ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE
AND MICHAEL FLAHERTY

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NAMING THE COMMUNITY ROOM IN THE ADAMS STREET LIBRARY “THE PATRICIA O’NEILL COMMUNITY ROOM”

WHEREAS: Patricia O’Neill is a longtime Dorchester resident who led the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association as President for 20 years, but her tireless dedication to the Dorchester community went far beyond the boundaries of this neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS: Pat was the driving force behind the Annual Dorchester Chili Cook-Off, which in turn supported the Dorchester Day Parade. She served on the Holiday Celebration Committee responsible for the annual tree lighting festivities throughout Dorchester and was on the advisory board of the Dorchester YMCA; *and*

WHEREAS: Throughout the years, Pat has received numerous accolades for her commitment and dedication to her community. In 2016, she received the Quinn Award from the University of Massachusetts Boston for her outstanding community leadership. In 2017, the Dorchester YMCA honored her with its “Originally from Dorchester” Award for community involvement. The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women added her to its list of “Unsung Heroes” at a State House ceremony, and Boston Main Streets recognized her as a “Volunteer of the Year”; *and*

WHEREAS: Pat believed that having a neutral public place to gather, be it for civic, social, educational, or entertainment purposes was critical in creating a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive culture.; *and*

WHEREAS: As a patron of the Boston Public Library, she valued its role in engaging area residents young and old, and she would have been a champion of the new branch, scheduled to open this spring; *and*

WHEREAS: Her tremendous contributions to the community at large deserves recognition by naming the Adams Street Library community room after Patricia O’Neill; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council supports naming the community room at the Adams Street Library “*The Patricia O’Neill Community Room*” in honor of her dedication and commitment to her community.

Filed on: January 27, 2021

**Friends of the Adams Street Library
% 109 Oakton Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02122**

December 14, 2020

Trustees of the Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Trustees of the Boston Public Library,

We are writing to express our support of the proposal by the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association to dedicate a space at the new Adams Street Branch library in memory of Patricia O'Neill. Pat was an active patron of the branch and a dedicated member of the community. We agree that this honor is well deserved.

Yours truly,

Grace Hebard, Mary O'Brien, Joanne Tranford,
Madeline Cahill, Donna McGarrigle
Friends of the Adams Street Branch Executive Board

Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association

November 2, 2020

Dear Friends of the Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library,

Patricia O'Neill led the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association as president for 20 years, but her tireless dedication to the Dorchester community went far beyond the boundaries of this neighborhood. In addition to her role at Ashmont Adams, she was, among other things, the moving force behind the Annual Dorchester Chili Cook-Off, which in turn supported the Dorchester Day Parade. She served on the Holiday Celebration Committee responsible for the annual tree lighting festivities throughout Dorchester. She was on the advisory board of the Dorchester YMCA, where, after Pat's death in April former executive director Andrea Baez observed: "It would take five people for every one Pat O'Neill" to fill the void.

Pat believed in education for all and was attracted to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston, whose mission is to foster lifelong learning, individual growth and social connection for those over 50. Once she joined the program several years ago, in typical Pat fashion, she not only attended classes, she quickly became a member of its board and one of the program's most enthusiastic advocates.

Over the years, Pat humbly accepted several accolades for her hard work and boundless energy as a community leader. In 2016, she received the Quinn Award from the University of Massachusetts Boston for outstanding community leadership. In 2017, the Dorchester YMCA honored her with its Originally from Dorchester Award for community involvement. The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women added her to its list of "Unsung Heroes" at a State House ceremony, and Boston Main Streets recognized her as a "Volunteer of the Year."

We would like to propose extending her legacy of outreach and engagement by proposing a community space be dedicated to her memory in the new Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library. Pat believed that having a neutral public place to gather, be it for civic, social, educational, or entertainment purposes was critical in creating a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive culture. As a patron of the BPL, she valued its role in engaging area residents young and old, and she would have been a champion of the new branch, rounding up folks to cheer on its opening this coming spring.

When Pat died at the age of 80, Mayor Martin J. Walsh posted on his social media platforms: "Pat was a true force for good. Dorchester and the entire City of Boston will miss your fierce and loving presence." We believe that a community space in her memory at the Adams Street branch would be a fitting way to keep her vitality and inspiration alive in the neighborhood she so loved.

Yours truly,

Cindie Fadden, Maribeth Diener, Gail Ravgiala, Mary Kelly
Ashmont Adams Executive Board

Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association is a community civic group representing some 800 households in the Dorchester neighborhood bounded by Ashmont and Adams streets, Dorchester Avenue and Gallivan Boulevard. AANA meets on the first Thursday of most months and can be reached at ashmontadams02124@gmail.com.

Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association

March 19, 2021

Dear Trustees of the Boston Public Library,

Patricia O'Neill led the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association as president for 20 years, but her tireless dedication to the Dorchester community went far beyond the boundaries of this neighborhood. In addition to her role at Ashmont Adams, she was, among other things, the moving force behind the Annual Dorchester Chili Cook-Off, which in turn supported the Dorchester Day Parade. She served on the Holiday Celebration Committee responsible for the annual tree lighting festivities throughout Dorchester. She was an active member of the Dorchester Board of Trade. She brought her work ethic and organizing talent to the advisory board of the Dorchester YMCA; after Pat's death in April 2020, former executive director Andrea Baez observed: "It would take five people for every one Pat O'Neill" to fill the void.

Pat believed in education for all and was attracted to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston, whose mission is to foster lifelong learning, individual growth and social connection for those over 50. Once she joined the program several years ago, in typical Pat fashion, she not only attended classes, she quickly became a member of its board and one of the program's most enthusiastic advocates.

Over the years, Pat humbly accepted several accolades for her hard work and boundless energy as a community leader. In 2016, she received the Quinn Award from the University of Massachusetts Boston for outstanding community leadership. In 2017, the Dorchester YMCA honored her with its Originally from Dorchester Award for community involvement. The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women added her to its list of "Unsung Heroes" at a State House ceremony, and Boston Main Streets recognized her as a "Volunteer of the Year."

We would like to extend her legacy of outreach and engagement by proposing a community space be dedicated to her memory in the new Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library. Pat believed that having a neutral public place to gather, be it for civic, social, educational, or entertainment purposes was critical in creating a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive culture. As a patron of the BPL, she valued its role in engaging area residents, young and old, and she would have been a champion of the new branch, rounding up folks to cheer on its opening this coming spring.

When Pat died at the age of 80, Mayor Martin J. Walsh posted on his social media platforms: "Pat was a true force for good. Dorchester and the entire City of Boston will miss your fierce and loving presence." We believe that a community space in her memory at the Adams Street branch would be a fitting way to keep her vitality and inspiration alive in the neighborhood she so loved.

Yours truly,

Cindie Fadden, Maribeth Diener, Gail Ravgiala, Mary Kelly
Ashmont Adams Executive Board

Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association is a community civic group representing some 800 households in the Dorchester neighborhood bounded by Ashmont and Adams streets, Dorchester Avenue and Gallivan Boulevard. AANA meets on the first Thursday of most months and can be reached at ashmontadams02124@gmail.com.



SENATOR NICK COLLINS
First Suffolk District

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 312D
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL. (617) 722-1150
FAX (617) 722-2191
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

February 2, 2021

Robert E. Gallery, *Chair*
Boston Public Library Board of Trustees
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Ms. Patricia O'Neill

Dear Chair Gallery and Members of the Board,

I am writing today in support of the recently passed resolution by the City Council to name the Adams Branch Boston Public Library community room "*The Patricia O'Neill Community Room*" in honor of her dedication and commitment to her community.

Ms. O'Neill was the president of the Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Association for almost 20 years and was the founder of the Dorchester Chili Cook-Off, a key fundraiser for the Dorchester Day Parade. She was an incredibly vital member of the Dorchester community, and I believe that her contributions and memory should be honored.

It is for these reasons that I support naming the Adams Branch Boston Public Library community room after Ms. Patricia O'Neill. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Collins".

NICK COLLINS
State Senator

February 1, 2021

Dear Trustees of the Boston Public Library,

I write today in support of Boston City Council “Resolution in Support of Naming the Community Room in the Adams Street Library ‘The Patricia O’Neil Community Room’”.

A long time Dorchester resident and member of the Ashmont- Adams neighborhood, Pat O’Neil was a dedicated citizen who valued extracurricular involvement and prioritized service to others. Pat was for many years, a member of the Dorchester Day Parade Planning Committee. The Dorchester Day Parade is an annual community event which celebrates Dorchester as a vibrant and diverse neighborhood in the City of Boston. Pat served as an instrumental part of the parade, ensuring its success and smooth execution throughout its 3.2 mile route.

As the head of the Ashmont-Adams Civic Association for more than 20 years, Pat continuously demonstrated her role as a major thread weaving together the constituents, business owners, community organizers, and leaders. Her passion for civic engagement was most notably displayed by her efforts to engage future generations of the city to exercise their civic duty in like fashion.

In addition to her tireless public service, Pat O’Neil was a passionate member of UMass Boston’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and a frequent patron of Boston Public Libraries. By dedicating the community room of the new Adams Street Library, we would not only be honoring Pat, we would be honoring the incredible legacy she left behind.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Daniel.Hunt@Mashouse.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Hunt".

Daniel J. Hunt
State Representative
13th Suffolk District

Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Acting Chair of the Board
Boston Public Library Board of Trustees
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Support for Naming the Adams Street Branch Community Room for Pat O'Neill

Dear Acting Chair Arana-Ortiz & Boston Public Library Board of Trustees:

I am writing to wholeheartedly support dedicating the Boston Public Library's Adams Street Branch community room in honor of the life and legacy of Pat O'Neill. It truly breaks my heart that Pat, who so selflessly served the Dorchester community for decades and was so instrumental to the social and civic fabric of the neighborhood, upon her passing could not be honored with the overwhelming communal showing of love and support she deserved for such an incredible lifetime of service because of the pandemic.

As a former State Representative, as a political staffer covering Ashmont Adams community meetings where Pat served as President, and as a neighbor, I saw first-hand Pat's work making Ashmont Adams, Dorchester and the entire City a better place to live, to work and to raise a family. She never sought accolades or praise. Put simply, she did the work of making people's lives better and she made it fun. Losing Pat is a deep loss that will continue to be felt throughout the community, but her example of valuing and prioritizing community service, helping neighbors, bettering community and making all feel welcome will not be forgotten.

As I left public office after making the decision to not seek another term, I am proud that one of my last community donations from my campaign fund was a donation of \$4,000 towards the community led effort of ensuring that Pat O'Neill's lifetime of selfless service will be remembered with a permanent memorial. It is my sincere hope that with a permanent memorial and dedication ceremony (when safe and appropriate) the next generation will learn of Pat's amazing contributions to our community and embrace the importance of giving back. It would be such a fitting tribute for the community room at the Adams Street Branch to be named for someone who has given so much of herself to the cause of building community in Dorchester.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I wish you the very best as you go through the decision making process. I sincerely hope you and yours remain safe and in good health as we all navigate these difficult days.

With Gratitude,



DANIEL R. CULLINANE
Former State Representative

POPE'S HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



492 ASHMONT ST
DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 02122

January 25, 2021

BPL Board of Trustees
% Pamela Carver
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Trustees:

I am writing on behalf of the Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association (PHNA) in regards to the proposal to posthumously dedicate and name the community room at the Adams Street Branch Library for President of the Ashmont Adams Association, Patricia "Pat" O'Neill. The PHNA wholeheartedly supports this proposal.

Pat O'Neill was an iconic leader; she was energetic, reasonable, and wise. She organized many events and loved her Dorchester community. Pat was a great inspiration for other neighborhood leaders and advocates as well. Our hope is her legacy may inspire children to get involved in their community. We in the PHNA cannot think of a better place to do that than at our beautiful new Adams Street Branch Library, which resides in the Pope's Hill neighborhood of Dorchester.

Sincerely,

John F. Schneiderman

John F. Schneiderman
President, Pope's Hill Neighborhood Association

cc: Patrick Fandel, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services



February 11, 2021

Dear Friends of the Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library,

Patricia O'Neill was a vibrant part of the Dorchester community. She believed in education for all was an active member of the OWL program at the University of Massachusetts right up to the time of her death.

We believe a community space in her memory at the Adams Street branch would be a fitting way to keep her memory and inspiration to learning alive in the neighborhood she loved, and support the proposed naming of the Community Room in her honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bickerton".

Steve Bickerton
President

Ashmont Hill Association

Building community since 1970

P.O . Box 240217, Dorchester, MA 02124

ahneighborhoodinfo@gmail.com www.ashmonthill.org

January 26, 2021

Trustees of the Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street Boston,
MA 02116

Dear Trustees,

The Ashmont Hill Association Board of Directors is pleased to support the proposal of the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association to name the community room in the new Adams Street branch library in honor of the late Patricia O'Neill.

A lifelong resident of Dorchester, Pat O'Neill made innumerable contributions to our community, not just in her immediate neighborhood, where she was president of the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association for many years, but well beyond. The residents of Ashmont Hill and throughout Dorchester benefited from her leadership in community events and organizations that served people from all parts of our diverse community, creating a welcoming and inclusive culture.

Pat headed the annual the Dorchester Chili Cook-off, which supported the Dorchester Day Parade. She was a key member of the Dorchester Holiday Celebrations Committee, which sponsored annual tree-lighting events throughout Dorchester; the gathering in Peabody Square in her own Ashmont neighborhood, complete with live music, cookies and hot chocolate, attracted hundreds of people from the diverse neighborhoods all around the Square. She was also on the advisory board of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Massachusetts/ Boston—her involvement benefited all ages in her community. In recognition of her service, she received the 2016 Quinn Award from the University of Massachusetts/Boston, as well as awards from the Dorchester YMCA, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, and Boston Main Streets.

Pat believed strongly in the value of bringing people together, whether for civic, social, educational or entertainment purposes, to build a sense of community. Naming the community room in her honor would be a fitting tribute to all she did for Dorchester.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Vicki Rugo, President

The way city living should be

Ashmont Hill Association

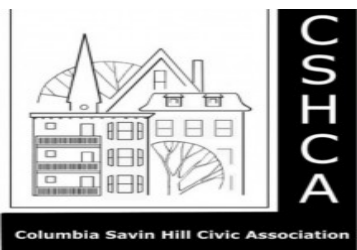
Building community since 1970

P.O . Box 240217, Dorchester, MA 02124

ahneighborhoodinfo@gmail.com www.ashmonthill.org

Board of Directors

The way city living should be



February 1 2021

Boston Public Library
690 Adams Street
Dorchester, MA 02122

Board of Trustees

The membership of the Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association which encompasses an area from Columbia Road to Fields Corner, respectfully ask that your support designating an area of the Adam Street Public Library in memory of Pat O'Neill. Pat believed that having a public place to gather for civic, social, educational, or entertainment purposes was critical in creating a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive culture. To have such a resource area dedicated to her would be a fitting tribute to her legacy of outreach and engagement.

Our community will always reflect on how Pat always gave back and provided a spirit that created positivity. She was also the mother / grandmother of our community. She never gave up and always moved forward. She loved every member of the Dorchester community and we loved her back!

In memory, we respectfully ask to keep that lively spirit alive!

Respectively,

Desmond Rohan
Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association
Bc92@comcast.net
617-388-5322

February 7, 2021

Trustees
Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Trustees,

I am writing in full support of the petition of the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association to have the community space at the Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library named in honor of my friend and long-time Dorchester community leader Patricia O'Neill.

Pat touched so many people during her life and in her work as a leader of the Association. Representing the McCormack Civic Association, I feel blessed to have been able to work with Pat on civic and public policy issues as well as community social events like the Annual Dorchester Chili Cook-Off, the Dorchester Day Parade and the annual Holiday Tree Lightings.

I have many wonderful memories of Pat, but her years of coordinating the many civic groups in Dorchester and her ability to create a fun and pleasant experience out of hours of counting, sorting and packing items for Tree Lighting gift bags stands out. This is just one of the many ways that Pat dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for all Dorchester residents and bringing people together. It is therefore so appropriately fitting that a community space, welcoming to the many diverse members of our Dorchester neighborhood, and that is used for gatherings and bringing people together, should be named in honor of Pat's life.

Best regards,

Millie Rooney
McCormack Civic Association
Dorchester

January 27, 2021

Dear Trustees:

MRS PATRICIA O'NEILL WAS A DEAR FRIEND OF THE OFFICERS AT DISTRICT C-11 ESPECIALLY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE.

EVERY TIME I NEEDED HELP WITH CANDY AT HALLOWEEN OR VOLUNTEERS TO WRAP CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, PAT ALWAYS ROUNDED UP MEMBERS OF HER CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND TOGETHER THEY WOULD DESCEND FOR 3 OR 4 NIGHTS AND WRAP HUNDREDS OF PRESENTS AT THE ELEVATORS UNION HALL. PAT AND HER ELVES WOULD BRING PRESENTS, WRAPPING PAPER AND SCISSORS.

PAT'S ENERGY AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP US HELP HUNDREDS OF DORCHESTER'S LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN WAS AN INSPIRATION. EVERY YEAR FOR 20 YEARS SHE WOULD VOLUNTEER HER TIME TO HELP US ANY WAY SHE COULD AND TRUTH BE TOLD OUR KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY WOULD NOT BE THE GREAT SUCCESS IT HAS BEEN WITHOUT PAT O'NEILL.

I MISS HER SMILE, SENSE OF HUMOR AND HUMBLENESS. I GUESS I JUST MISS MY FRIEND AND DAUGHTER OF DORCHESTER MRS PAT O'NEILL.

OFFICER MIKE KEANEY C-11.



100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-
3393

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)P: 617.287.7312

U MASS MCCORMACK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GLOBAL STUDIES
BOSTON UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON www.umb.edu/olli

January 29, 2021

Dear Trustees of the Boston Public Library:

Pat O'Neill embodied what it meant to be an engaged community member and leader. This letter supports the effort to have the community space at the Adams Street branch of the Boston Public Library named in her honor and memory. Pat believed that having a public place to gather for civic, social, educational, or entertainment purposes was critical in creating a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive culture. I wish to describe Pat's involvement with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, which I feel is just one of many examples of why this dedication would be a fitting tribute to her legacy.

Since August 2017, I have been fortunate to be the director of OLLI at UMass Boston. This community of older adults comes together to learn through educational, social, and cultural courses and programs. Simply put, OLLI members embrace and support learning for the sheer love of it! Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, OLLI had approximately 1,000 members who resided in and around the Boston area, with many of them living in Dorchester.

Pat O'Neill was actively involved in OLLI through her election to its Board of Directors and served on the Curriculum Committee as well as the co-chair of the Day Trips Committee. She was responsible for planning and implementing various day trips to museums, cultural centers, and other educational sites. These trips brought immense joy and satisfaction to those who participated. Through Pat's research and coordination, the events were always a huge success and very popular. Pat also served as a mentor for IJMass Boston graduate students who taught courses for OLLI. Her guidance on how to facilitate a course for older adults proved beneficial as many of the graduate students had not taught in a classroom where the students' average ages ranged from 65-80.

Pat would often sit in my office and talk with me. It is through these conversations I learned of her immense dedication to Dorchester and the Ashmont neighborhoods. Her character, work ethic, and humor made her such an approachable person. I clearly remember the time when Pat and I were staffing an OLLI outreach booth at the Ashmont Farmers Market (right outside the Ashmont T Station). Not only did many folks know Pat by sight and name, Pat had no reservations approaching strangers and engaging them in a conversation about OLLI. I was in awe of her talents, but I also knew this was purely something that was second nature to her.

I recently facilitated an OLLI course on film documentaries about libraries, and we discussed the fact and importance that the public library's role is more than providing access to books. It represents a place that often is the heart of the community for which it is located. In so many ways, Pat was the heart of her community, and I can attest that she helped build community here at OLLI. I sincerely believe that her efforts and legacy of community outreach and engagement would continue in some means by having this gathering space named in her memory. If I can provide additional support for this effort, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jim Hermelbracht".

Jim Hermelbracht

Director OLLI at UMass Boston
james.hermelbracht@umb.edu

January 24, 2021

Dear Elected Officials,

It is with great honor, I send this letter on behalf of the late Patricia O'Neill, recommending her tireless efforts and support of her community be recognized at the Adams Street Library. I had the esteemed pleasure of working as the Executive Director of the Dorchester YMCA, from August 2015 – March 2019, and one of my greatest joys of that work was time spent with Pat O'Neill. Pat signed on as one of the Civic Presidents in Dorchester, who were working with us on our first Community Honors Event. That year we honored Mayor Walsh, Ed Forry and Keith Motley. Pat, in true Pat fashion, agreed to help us with our appeal for support, and it was evident that night how well loved and respected she was throughout the largest subset of Boston, Dorchester. No one, and I mean no one said no, as Pat asked them to sponsor a child to swim, or "get an old lady like me in the pool", I know from that moment on I would learn so much from her, and I sure did.

Pat was the definition of community, there was not an a life event of a neighbor that was not acknowledged, or community event that occurred that Pat was some how not involved in. She supported them all, and most events she ran herself. One day in October my phone rang and it was Pat, she was wrapping up her plans for the Halloween Costume event for Ashmont Adams, and was thinking about the trolley tour that happened in December, and could the Y donate a small treat for the kids bags. The answer, always yes for Pat, led me to her home on Ashmont Street where she was surrounded by boxes of items to be moved to a larger location to stuff the hundreds of bags needed for the event. She asked for no help in doing so, she just smiled and said, the kids need it and poof it was done. Later that year I was introduced to what became a favorite event of my families, the Chili Cook Off. I was in awe of all the excitement and activity, and who was in the middle of it all, Pat of course! That money supported the Dorchester Day parade, a time honored tradition in her favorite place in the world.

The year the Dorchester Y honored Pat with our OFD award, she was coming from the ground breaking of the new baseball field at BC High, you would never know, 45 minutes prior she was in jeans and sneakers for another event. Pat gave her all to the betterment of her community. Whether it was kids, seniors, families, she didn't care, she just wanted the best for Dorchester and it showed every single day. She opened her home, and her arms to all and I know that she is missed tremendously, every single day by so many. As COVID did to so many, the inability to gather, and mourn Pat as a community was devastating. Yes, there were cars to see her off, but she deserved so much more. She deserves a place, that memorializes all she did for so many. The new library would have a project Pat would have loved, she would have been at community meetings and talking to neighbors and beyond about what it would do for her beloved Ashmont Adams. Pat O'Neill never thought once about the time she gave to Dorchester, she just did it. She loved it, she cared for it and its residents. She forever will be missed, and a place for those who loved her and a place for those who should know about this amazing woman who fought tirelessly for the best for her community, seems so fitting in the new library. I know I am not alone in saying this is the right thing to do to recognize her forever love for community, and forever energy to serve those around her. Pat O'Neill is what every neighborhood in the world needs, and she should have a permanent place to be remembered.

Thank you,

Andrea C. Baez

January 26, 2021

Dear Boston Public Library Trustees:

Pat and I met more than 35 years ago when I worked at a local Bank and Pat was a customer. Our sons were the same age and went to the same high school so over time our friendship flourished.

Pat was everything Dorchester, making sure she spent her money at local businesses and promoting and supporting new businesses. She was tireless when it came to helping others no matter their status. Her special talent was in encouraging participation -- she always had her recruiting hat on as she gently persuaded folks to get involved. She worked a room like no other.

Pat won and deserved many accolades but her best gift to all was her undying friendship. She will be and is sorely missed and we all have our special memories of Pat that we will treasure forever. Having a community space named in her honor would be a fitting tribute to her for all she did for the neighborhood she loved.

Respectfully,

Pat MacNeil

January 25, 2021

Trustees of the Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Trustees of the Boston Public Library:

In my 18 years as a Boston City Councilor from Dorchester, I often received requests from constituents seeking letters of support for their personal use or various community endeavors. It was generally easy to respond because the requesting parties had earned the support they were seeking. On the other hand, writing in support of a dedicated community space in recognition of the late Patricia O'Neill at the new Adams Street branch library is so difficult, not because she does not deserve it, but because it would be nearly impossible to put into words all of her contributions and convey the essence of this spectacular woman. Pat was a mother, wife and life-long learner. As such, the Adams Street Library played a central role in her love of knowledge. Pat's involvement the last several years of her life with the OLLI at UMass Boston demonstrated her continuous learning and personal growth.

Pat's community activities are almost too numerous to list and I am sure others will be glad to inform you of them. I want to write, instead about the person she was, unique among all of the community people with whom I interacted during my years in office. Pat's style and sense of humor underpinned her commitment to her neighborhood, its residents, and all the good deeds done for others. Knowing how to throw a good party certainly did not hurt her efforts to engage others in the activities she led for her community. Pat lived, breathed, and toiled for decades in her Dorchester neighborhood.

Honoring Pat's memory is challenging because she did so much for so many people and organizations. The idea of naming community space after Pat in the new Adams Street branch library is so appropriate. This captures what Pat was all about in bringing neighbors together in a common space to accomplish civic good and to create the opportunity to celebrate our neighborhood and each other.

I wholeheartedly support the naming a community space in the new Adams Street library after Pat O'Neill. Such an action by the Trustees will memorialize appropriately one of Dorchester's most beloved and cherished residents. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Maureen Feeney

January 27, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter as I join with my fellow neighbors and friends to request the community room at the Adams St library to be named in honor of my dear friend, Pat O'Neill.

Mrs. O'Neill was one of a kind. She was devoted to making Dorchester the best place to live. She put her ideas into action, and brought along so many others to make an event or a cause a success, while also making it fun. The Ashmont -Adams Neighborhood benefited greatly from Pat's dedication, commitment and love. It would be a fitting tribute to dedicate this room in her honor.

I implore you to give this request your fullest attention.

Regards,
Stacey

Stacey Monahan
Former President, Ashmont-Adams Neighborhood Association
617-429-9871

January 21, 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a member of the Dorchester Parade Committee, I am submitting this letter in support of the request to have a community space at the Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library named in honor of Pat O'Neill. This would be an appropriate honor for Pat, who inspired people to get involved in the Dorchester Community. Her outreach and commitment to community was outstanding. She made every effort to include and encourage people both young and old to be part of Dorchester's civic and social activities.

For more than a decade, Pat organized and managed the Dorchester Chili- Cook, an annual event that raised money – more than \$100,000 over the last 12 years -- for the Dorchester Day Parade. Her hard work insured the parade, which costs about \$45,000 to put on, could take place every June. Under her direction, the cook-off got bigger each year, as she tirelessly encouraged more and more local community groups and restaurants to get involved. She was committed to making this event fun and welcoming for all of Dorchester's neighborhoods and communities.

I have also work with Pat on the city's Holiday Celebration Committee, which was responsible for the annual lighting of Holiday trees throughout 10 different neighborhoods in Dorchester. There she coordinated civic leaders, the Parks Department and the Mayor's office and local businesses and individuals to ensure this wonderful celebration happened each year. It was no easy feat, but Pat cheerfully and enthusiastically took to the task of making our neighborhoods shine.

Pat also volunteered her time in many other activities including serving on the Advisory Board of the Dorchester YMCA and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UMASS Boston. She was greatly honored with the 2016 Quinn Award from the University of Massachusetts Boston for her outstanding community leadership and dedication.

Dorchester is a better place because of all the work of Pat O'Neill. This community room will inspire people to follow her example and I am proudly supporting naming this space in her memory.

Thank you for this consideration.

Peter Sasso
Vice President
Dorchester Day Parade Committee

January 31, 2021

Board of Trustees,
Boston Public Library,
Copley Square,
Boston, MA

Dear Members of the Board,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of naming a public meeting space at the new Adams Street branch of the Boston Public Library for my friend and neighbor, Pat O'Neill. I have lived in the Ashmont/Adams section of Boston since 1975 - and worked here, at the Dorchester Court, for almost twenty years. It's a wonderful community with many people who welcome newcomers and support one another and sponsor community projects that help us all and the city as a whole.

One of the most important reasons for that, at least in the last twenty years, has been Pat O'Neill. She was absolutely tireless in her commitment to so many projects - and in recruiting all of us to contribute as we much as we could. In March, there was a Chili Cookoff, to raise money for the Dorchester Day Parade. In April, there was a neighborhood cleanup, with coffee and donuts in her driveway. On Dorchester Day in early June, we cheered on the parade marchers, and, during the summer, we piled into a school bus for a Paw Sox game. There was a pumpkin carving for the children in the fall and tree decorating at Peabody Square in early December, and a holiday party with presents for children at the Area C-11 police station. And, of course, every month, she chaired meetings of the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association, giving everyone a chance to learn what was happening in the neighborhood - and to weigh in. Topics included regular updates from officers from the Boston Police Area C-11, developers seeking neighborhood approval for new projects, politicians and city officials seeking support sometimes and sometimes just an opportunity to provide information.

I'm sure I have left things out, (including the many events after the tragic Boston Marathon bombing in 2013) but the important point, for me at least, is that Pat never stopped and that she worked so hard to contribute to this community - and to involve so many different people in doing so and we are a special and, I think, unique place because of her efforts.

For that reason, I urge you wholeheartedly to name a public meeting space at the new library - in the heart of our community - for Pat. I think her inspiration will move us to carry her legacy and to continue to make this the extraordinary place I am privileged to live in. I would be pleased to answer any questions at all.

Very truly yours,
SYDNEY HANLON
33 Carruth Street
Dorchester, MA 02124
617-436-2136

TEVNANITEVNAN

John E. Tevnan (1920-2003)
Charles R. Tevnan

January 25, 2021

Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston
Robert E. Gallery, Chair c/o Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Adams Street Branch' Patricia E. "Pat" O'Neill

Dear Mr. Gallery:

I am writing in support of the petition of the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association (AANA) to dedicate the community space at the new Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library in honor of the late Patricia E. "Pat" O'Neill.

Pat O'Neill epitomized "service" and "community," and was the heart and soul of the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood for many years.

Among her many contributions to the Dorchester community, she was the president of the AANA, and founder of the Annual Dorchester Chili Cook-Off, a fundraiser in support of the Dorchester Day Parade. In 2016, she received the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership from the University of Massachusetts Boston. In 2017, she was recognized by the Dorchester YMCA for her commitment to community service. She was full of laughter, and love, for all.

I hope you will agree with AANA, that Pat O'Neill is the right person to honor in this way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



CHARLES R. TEVNAN

TEVNANTEVNAN

Marshall • Building | 15 Broad Street | Boston, MA 02109 | Phone 617.423.4100 Fax 617.423.2596 www.tevnan.com

BOSTON

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

January 26, 2021

Mr. David Leonard and Trustees
Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA, 02116

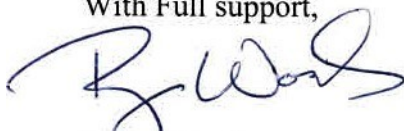
Dear Mr. Leonard and Trustees,

I write this letter in full support of naming the community room at the Adams Street Library Branch in Dorchester in honor of Patricia O'Neill. In my role as Parks Commissioner and being a fellow Dorchester resident, I have seen firsthand the high level of engagement and love Pat had for Dorchester's Ashmont/Adams community.

Pat was a community activist who we could always count on to get the job done. Whether it was assisting spreading the word about an upcoming event or free program being offered by the City, moderating countless hours of civic meetings, coordinating Boston Shines clean-ups, overseeing the Dorchester Celebration Committee, collaborating with basic city service departments or fundraising for the Dorchester Day parade, Pat was leading the charge. She always brought people together and welcomed everybody into her circle with open arms and a larger-than-life smile. She tackled every obstacle, task or conversation the same way and always was there to listen. She genuinely believed that if you wanted to see change you had to step up and engage and be part of the process.

I cannot think of a better honor than naming this community space after a woman who was so inclusive, welcoming and had such a passion for civic life. Dorchester was lucky to have her in our corner for many decades and we hope that children and families will continue Pat's legacy of kindness, bringing people together, collaborating and entertaining in this space for years to come.

With Full support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Woods", written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Woods
Commissioner
Boston Parks and Recreation

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE TRUSTEES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
AND
THE CITY OF BOSTON

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this 2nd day of February, 2021, between the City of Boston (the “City”), City Hall Plaza, Boston, MA 02110 and the Trustees of the Boston Public Library (the “Trustees”), 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02109.

WITNESSETH

Whereas, the Trustees have the general care and control of and the financial responsibility for the Central Library and its branches, the buildings and the Collections in their entirety, which are collectively known as the Boston Public Library; and,

Whereas, City of Boston provides public funding for the majority of the Boston Public Library’s operating budget; and,

Whereas, the Trustees of the Boston Public Library have renewed their partnership with the Boston Public Library Foundation, newly relaunched and renamed as the Boston Public Library Fund (the “Fund”); and,

Whereas, the Fund anticipates increasing private philanthropic contributions to the Library; and,

Whereas, such development activities are intended to supplement, not displace current budget lines; and,

Whereas, the Trustees wish to continue to nominate for appointment by the Mayor new members of the board of the Library (the “Board”), which has recently been increased, who reflect the diversity of the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and who represent a broad spectrum of professional backgrounds and interests.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Responsibilities of the Parties.
 - a. Trustees.
 - i. Trustees shall provide the City through its Collector Treasurer or its designee, with an annual accounting of any and all sums received from the Fund, or if as requested periodically more often. Such reports shall include descriptions of all programs, services and other items underwritten by the Fund.
 - ii. The Trustees, through their working relationship with the Fund and its staff, shall maintain their commitment to transparency. Such commitment includes

compliance with the State Ethics Laws (M.G.L. c. 268A), the Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25) and the Public Records Law (M.G.L. c. 60, §10).

- iii. The Trustees, through their working relationship with the Fund and its staff, shall require acceptance of a mutually acceptable donor acceptance policy.

b. City of Boston.

- i. The City of Boston, by and through its Collector Treasurer or its designee, shall review all aforementioned reports and shall continue to maintain or when possible improve current budget lines for the Library. The City shall not normally divert public funds from the Library due to the Fund's support, absent for example, a publicly verifiable change in external economic conditions.

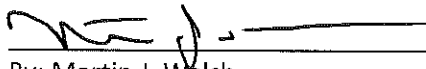
2. Appointment of Certain Board Members. Through its Nominating Committee, the Trustees shall present to the Mayor a subset of nominees for appointment to the Board no later than April 1st annually. Said nominees shall reflect the diversity of the City and of the Commonwealth, and shall represent a broad range of professional backgrounds and skills. The number of nominees may vary annually depending upon the expiration of prior Trustee terms or as other vacancies arise. The Trustees will strive to maintain a preponderance of City of Boston residents on the Board, and at least a majority. This provision shall not alter the Mayor's authority to appoint the majority of Trustees to the Board.
3. Term of Memorandum. This Memorandum shall commence on the Effective Date and shall terminate when both parties agree to termination.
4. Enabling Statutes. This Memorandum is to be construed in accordance with the Enabling Statutes of the Boston Public Library and the other relevant provisions of the City Charter. Any part of this Memorandum found to be in conflict with either the Enabling Statutes or any other provision of the City Charter is void.
5. Severability. If any provision of this Memorandum or any provision of any document incorporated by reference shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this Agreement which can be given effect without the invalid provision, if such remainder conforms to the requirements of applicable law and the fundamental purpose of this Agreement, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are declared to be severable.
6. Governing Law. This Memorandum shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
7. Counterparts. This Memorandum may be executed and delivered in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
8. Entire Memorandum. This Memorandum contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the Parties. No other understandings, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of

this Memorandum shall be deemed to exist or bind any of the Parties hereto, except to the extent that the Parties are bound via the Library's enabling legislation, 1878 Mass. Acts. 114, 1887 Mass. Acts 60 as amended from time to time.

9. Amendments. This Memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties. Such amendments shall not be binding unless they are in writing and signed by personnel authorized to bind each of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Memorandum as of the Effective Date.

THE CITY OF BOSTON

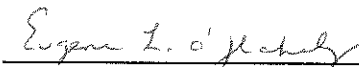


By: Martin J. Walsh
Its: Mayor

TRUSTEES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

By: Robert Gallery
Its: Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



By: Eugene L. O'Flaherty
Title: Corporation Counsel



extent that the Parties are bound via the Library's enabling legislation, 1878 Mass. Acts. 114, 1887 Mass. Acts 60 as amended from time to time.

9. Amendments. This Memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties. Such amendments shall not be binding unless they are in writing and signed by personnel authorized to bind each of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Memorandum as of the Effective Date.

THE CITY OF BOSTON

By: Martin J. Walsh
Its: Mayor

TRUSTEES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



By: Evelyn Arana Ortiz
Its: Vice Chair & Interim Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: Eugene L. O'Flaherty
Title: Corporation Counsel



STRATEGIC ROADMAP OVERVIEW

March 22, 2021

Overview

- Origins & Purpose
- Key Principles
- Timeline
- Details
- Component Strategies
 - Tech
 - Capital
 - Equity

History

**"Bridge" between Compass
and a new full strategic plan**

Intro at All staff Meeting, November 2019

Invitation for feedback

Division Directors retreat + prioritization, Early 2020

- > Draft I

Progress Intermittent due to COVID.

-> Draft II, circulated to Leadership, Early 2021

-> Draft III, Present to Manager, Staff, Trustees

-> Final, Proposed Trustee Vote in May 2021

Principles

Reviewed, refined,
+ reordered

- Becoming an anti-racist organization and building a culture of respect
- Programs & services that build and maintain equity
- Build, maintain & activate collections
- Expand our reach, awareness and impact; with fiscal sustainability
- Inspiring spaces, well maintained and modern infrastructure
- Create patron and staff connections & services through technology
- Expect the unexpected

Timeline



- Per last leadership meeting and review, refined timeline
- Four phases over 5 years +/-
 - Jan 21 → Jun 21
 - Jun 21 → Dec 21
 - Jan 22 → Dec 23
 - Jan 24 → Dec 25

Supporting efforts

- New technology plan implementation
- Ongoing collections projects (Founding Research, Rare Books, Collections Ordering)
- Equity work: to be informed by YW Boston results, although there are obvious next steps
- Ongoing capital projects
- Strategic communications planning
- Other?

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Finance & Audit Committee Meeting

3/16/2021

Executive Summary

Libraries provide vital access to cultural, educational, and informational materials. Technology has become integral to the services libraries provide and can be used to create efficiency and effectiveness in how services are delivered. This plan focuses on the continuing renewal, consolidation, revitalization, and expansion of technologies to support delivery of evolving library services.

Goals

- ➔ **Focus on Impact & Outcomes**
 - ▶ **Extend the Library's Reach**
 - ▶ **Expand Educational Opportunities**
 - ▶ **Develop Spaces that Meet Evolving Patron Needs**
 - ▶ **Enable One Library**
 - ▶ **Drive Organizational Efficiency**
 - ▶ **Improve IT Fundamentals**

IT Department Mission

The IT department should provide a comprehensive first-class suite of services to external and internal library patrons, partners and employees. Library staff should see the IT department as a strategic business partner that can help them innovate, become more efficient and support them in their success.

The department should run efficiently and securely with a drive for results, transparency, accountability and collaboration. The department should strive to become a model for other libraries (and community-based non-profits) on how to effectively provide meaningful and impactful technological services to a diverse population of patrons. Patrons should feel inspired and supported by technology at the library.

Goals & Initiatives







Most of the initiatives that make up these goals require cross functional teams to implement and would not be achievable otherwise. This plan is used to create alignment and understanding across the organization of technological priorities.

Initiative details in the Technology Plan includes activities, key department involvement, and estimated costs.

Focus on Impact & Outcomes

Without a target in mind, knowing where to invest time or money is just a guess. Decisions throughout the library should be informed by data and/or measured against predefined metrics. Technology should be used to streamline data collection and to analyze results to obtain insights. Predetermined metrics should be continually tracked and published to inform decisions, measure initiatives and communicate our impact.

Focus on Impact & Outcomes

INITIATIVES	PATRON / STAFF BENEFIT	STAFF EFFORT	ESTIMATED COST
Refine and Align on Key Performance Indicators			\$
Implement Reliable Data Analytics Platform			\$\$
Streamline Data Collection			\$\$\$

Key: Low     High

Extend the Library's Reach

As we continually look to reach more patrons, technology has become essential in supporting that objective. Digital content and online programming improve accessibility, but many patrons also need technology hardware and/or access to the internet to be able to use those services. We should expand our ability to be free to all by reaching patrons where they are and in a format that works best for them, while giving them the support they need.

Extend the Library's Reach

INITIATIVES	PATRON / STAFF BENEFIT	STAFF EFFORT	ESTIMATED COST
Increase Technology Access (Wi-Fi, Hotspots, Chromebooks)	●	◐	\$\$\$\$
Expand Advance Technology Lending	◑	◐	\$\$
Enable Online Financial Transactions	◑	◑	\$\$

Key: Low ○ ◑ ◐ ◑ ● High

Expand Educational Opportunities

As the old adage goes, give a man a fish and feed him for a day - teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime. When it comes to technology, providing devices and internet access are often not enough to have meaningful impact. Patrons also need access to and be fully aware of training opportunities that meet their needs (basic computer usage, workforce development, online meeting fundamentals, emerging technologies, awareness of local resources, understanding voting rights, etc.). While this goal focuses on patrons, it encompasses technology education for staff as well. With technology continually changing, it is important for staff to embrace continuous learning around technology.

Expand Educational Opportunities







INITIATIVES	PATRON / STAFF BENEFIT	STAFF EFFORT	ESTIMATED COST
Technical Support for Patrons	●	◐	\$
Floating Programming Kits	◐	◑	\$\$
Staff Technical Training and Support	●	◐	\$

Key: Low ○ ◐ ◑ ◒ ◓ High ●

Develop Spaces that Meet Evolving Patron Needs

Libraries are not just places to go to get a book, they are so much more. The physical library provides a safe and welcoming place to learn, relax, and connect. As the way that people work and learn changes, so must the place they do it in – their co-working office, research library, and event space. Meanwhile, flexible physical spaces can be achieved with technology to increase access and usability while also creating a more personalized experience at scale.

Develop Spaces that Meet Evolving Patron Needs







INITIATIVES	PATRON / STAFF BENEFIT	STAFF EFFORT	ESTIMATED COST
Activate Outdoor Spaces			\$\$
Enable Meeting Rooms for Videoconferencing			\$\$\$
Improve Digital Signage			\$\$\$\$

Key: Low     High

Enable One Library

Patrons should have a seamless and familiar experience regardless of what location they visit or which online service they use. Digital transformation of how staff operate can create improved communication, collaboration and equity among staff, which in turn improves the services we provide to patrons. Getting 27 locations with 450+ employees to operate as if they are one requires excellent communication and collaboration across all locations and roles.

Enable One Library

INITIATIVES	PATRON / STAFF BENEFIT	STAFF EFFORT	ESTIMATED COST
Improve Internal Document Management			\$
Improve Process for Tracking Key Relationships			\$
Refine Integrated Web Experience			\$

Key: Low     High

Drive Organizational Efficiency

Technology should be viewed as a differentiator that can be leveraged to enable the organization to continually innovate and exceed their goals. Technology should support staff in being able to focus more on their expertise by streamlining operational processes or hurdles.

Drive Organizational Efficiency

INITIATIVES	PATRON / STAFF BENEFIT	STAFF EFFORT	ESTIMATED COST
Timesheet Submission Workflow	●	◐	\$
Employee Transition Integration with IT	●	◑	\$
Room & Resource Booking Procedures	◐	◐	\$

Key: Low ○ ◐ ◑ ◒ ● High

Improve IT Fundamentals

Because of the increasing pace of technological change, the department will need to continually change over time. To enable innovation, there needs to be a strong foundation of systems and people. Solid processes should be in place for maintaining key patron functions without downtime while keeping hardware and software up to date, maintaining information security, and being prepared for disasters. IT staff will also need to continually develop expertise, in both technology and professional skills to ensure that the library can keep pace with changing technology.

Improve IT Fundamentals

INITIATIVES	PATRON / STAFF BENEFIT	STAFF EFFORT	ESTIMATED COST
Revise Business Continuity Plan	●	◐	\$\$
Establish Technology Refresh Schedule	●	◐	\$\$\$\$
Improve Data Center Infrastructure	◐	◐	\$\$\$
Increase Information Security Measures	◐	◐	\$
Professional Development for IT Staff	◐	◐	\$

Implementation Plan

These initiatives expect to be completed within the next three to five years. Staff will be able view progress and get updates on the execution of initiatives and activities by visiting online planner board.

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Planner application interface. A task card titled "Implement Reliable Data Analytics Platform" is open, showing details for a task assigned to Kurt Mansperger. The card includes fields for Bucket (FOCUS ON IMPACT & OUT...), Progress (Not started), Priority (Medium), Start date (Start anytime), and Due date (Due anytime). The Notes section contains two paragraphs: "It is important to understand BPL in the context of other service providers in the Boston area and also measure against similar sized libraries" and "It is also important to understand the communities being served through census data, etc." A Checklist section at the bottom lists three items: "Engage with third party who is experienced in developing a data warehouse", "Develop the feeds into the data warehouse and remove any personally identifying information", and "Load past data into data warehouse which may no longer be accessible through direct source access". The background shows a blurred view of the Planner board with various task cards and filters.

Planner

Implement Reliable Data Analytics Platform
Last changed moments ago by you

Kurt Mansperger

Bucket
FOCUS ON IMPACT & OUT...

Progress
Not started

Priority
Medium

Start date
Start anytime

Due date
Due anytime

Notes
It is important to understand BPL in the context of other service providers in the Boston area and also measure against similar sized libraries
It is also important to understand the communities being served through census data, etc.

Checklist 0 / 8

- Engage with third party who is experienced in developing a data warehouse
- Develop the feeds into the data warehouse and remove any personally identifying information
- Load past data into data warehouse which may no longer be accessible through direct source access