

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee

Friday, February 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Held virtually via Zoom

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Friday, February 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Present at the meeting were: Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee Evelyn Arana-Ortiz, Committee Members: Trustee Rep. Chynah Tyler, Che Madyun, Friend of the Roxbury Branch Library, Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services/Branches Also attending were: Allen Knight, Branch Librarian, Dianna Preusser, Assistant Neighborhood Services/Branches Manager, Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Project Manager and Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board. Committee members Sarah-Ann Shaw was not present.

The Clerk noted the meeting was being recorded. Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana- Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. She read the opening statement. The Clerk took roll call and determined there was a quorum.

First item on agenda was approval of meeting minutes from November 4, 2021 which were approved via a roll call vote.

Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services gave brief BPL updates. She noted they were looking to expand operating hours to Saturday starting in March systemwide. The Roxbury Branch was working on hiring a new children’s librarian.

Ms. Arana Ortiz gave a review of the current available Fellowes Athenaeum trust balance. The available balance for programming was \$190, 309.36. Ms. Arana Ortiz noted that the full corpus value of the trust fund was \$2,407,811.22.

Next, Candelaria Silva-Collins gave programming updates on the FY21-22 funded programs. She noted that COVID, inclement weather, and extremely cold temperatures had impacted the scheduled winter programs. She reviewed the five completed programs.

1. Meditation & Mindfulness that had five sessions held virtually in November. There were twenty-three attendees observed during three of the sessions. She was still awaiting final paperwork from the instructor.
2. Makanda Concert held two concerts on November 18th due to capacity restrictions. There were sixty-five at the first concert and slightly less at the second show.
3. ArtsEmerson Play Reading Book Club held four sessions and a show over October and November for *Iphigenia*. There were fifteen attendees at one of the observed sessions.
4. There were two African American “teach-In” classes. The first for Kwanzaa on December 20th with eight participants and the second for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr on January 10th for six participants in-person as well as twenty-five via Facebook Live.

Next, Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the current programs.

1. ArtsEmerson Play Reading Book Club began its second session with *Dreaming Zenzile* between January 31- February 28th. There were not able to do a final presentation due to staffing issues. There were up to seventeen participants in this session. She noted the play was having robust discussions at the Roxbury branch.
2. Project Fellowes Coding Classes for teens started on February 3-March. There was interest in the classes but the timing of the program from 3:30-5:00pm was a hindrance for students having to travel a distance after school to attend. Class offered on Wednesday evenings was offered a little later to accommodate.

Upcoming programs for the spring included: Movers and Makers for families. They were starting in late February to April 22nd with two additional dates pending. Haley House's Take Bake the Kitchen classes would be offered in two sessions. The session for families ran from mid-February to April. There were four sessions offered for seniors offered in between January and April. There was a Makanda Project concert scheduled for March 12th evening. The last African American teach-in would focus on Juneteenth.

There would be two additional play reading clubs scheduled and the collage workshop for families was scheduled for March or April.

Genealogy Bootcamp was originally scheduled for February but was postponed until the Roxbury Branch reopens for Saturday hours.

Piano classes were on hold until the availability of Saturdays was confirmed. Ms. Silva-Collins noted parents were anxiously awaiting word. She would update the committee accordingly.

The Committee discussed the updates. They were surprised by the lack of attendance at some of the programs.

Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the RFPs, noting it was the most unusual and difficult grant session she has ever experienced. The potential applicants were not responsive or efficient even after the technical assistance meeting. As a result, there were only five responsive grant applications to present.

1. **Chess Wizards** with Rob Brose would teach chess instruction and strategies once a week for five weeks targeting PreK- 8th grade. It was a national organization. They would be utilizing game books and were requesting \$2,870. It was voted to approve pending clarification by legal counsel to ensure no stipulation that an organization had to be based in Massachusetts.
2. **Prophetic Resistance Boston** with Danielle Williams ; an affiliate of MA Communities Action Network. They would staff listening sessions for four hours a week for six weeks over summer of 2022. To provide CORI information and answer questions. The goal was to seal CORI bonds and target audience was teens and adults. They requested \$3,000. There were a few questions regarding some of the requests in their budget for supplies and swag. The Committee voted to approve pending the questions regarding supplies/swag and they would be property of the BPL if purchased under this grant.
3. **Your Next Skills-Personal & Technical** with Joel Mackall. Targeting 17–22-year-olds released from DYS. He was a return grantee whose programs are always well attended. Would be in person but could be hybrid if needed. He requested \$2,978 and would run April/ May for four sessions. The committee voted to approve this program.

4. **Fundamentals of Financial Aid** with Ayana Bean. Offering guidance for junior and senior high school students, parents of, and adults seeking financial aid for college applications. She was requesting \$1,500 and would offer five sessions from March to April. This application was approved.
5. **The Intentional Self** with Rev. Dr. Sandy Range. This program was targeting women 18-70 years old to understand what prevents them from living an abundant life. The BPL would be required to purchase fifteen copies of her book to be reviewed. She requested \$2,500 for 12 weeks of virtual and in-person sessions.

The committee discussed their hesitations on approving this application due to unclear goals of the workshop. The committee voted to deny funding this program.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted that the piano classes would be requesting \$6,000 if the branch was opened over the summer. The committee voted to approve this.

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked if there was any new business. Allen Knight thanked Priscilla Foley and Diana Preusser for purchasing eight new sewing machines for the Roxbury Branch.

The Committee discussed scheduling the next meeting on June 10, 2022 at 10:00am and the location was to be decided whether held in-person or virtual. The website would be noted accordingly.

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked for public comment for which there was none. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R. Carver