

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Held via Zoom

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.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 and Sara-Ann Shas, Friends of the Roxbury Branch Library, Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services/Branches, and Allen Knight, Roxbury Branch Librarian. Also attending were: Diana Preusser, Assistant Neighborhood Services/Branches Manager, Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Project Manager and Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board. There were also members of the public present.

Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana- Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming and read the Trustees reaffirmation statement. Roll call was taken with all members present and determined there was a quorum. The Clerk noted the meeting was being recorded

First item on agenda was approval of meeting minutes from June 15, 2021. They were approved via a roll call vote.

Ms. Foley was invited to give updates on the Roxbury Branch. She thanked the staff for all their hard work. She noted that they were still unable to offer in person programming and were still operating with limited hours. She was thrilled to see the community come back. The branch celebration with Mayor Janey was a huge success.

Ms. Candelaria Silva-Collins gave her Program Manager’s report on the completed programs. Faith Johnson’s “Creativity with Meditation” had concluded, as well as the piano classes. They were currently working with Arts Emerson who had approximately 15-20 attendees. There was an upcoming Makanda concert on November 13 with Avery Sharpe; who would be hosting two concerts. Bonita Jones’ “Meditation and Mindfulness” had just began.

Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the upcoming programs. Movers and Shakers who provide movement with crafts was coming in February. Haley House’s “Take Back the Kitchen” would be hosting their cooking classes in January, February, March, and April for families. They will also offer classes in those months for seniors. The African American History Teach-In Series would be starting in December with Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Juneteenth. Coding classes would be starting on Wednesdays. The Makanda Project would determine their other concert date in April. The second session of piano lessons was anticipated to begin in the spring but would be confirmed after the meeting.

Ms. Silva-Collins expressed her concerns for having successful programs during the week with the BPL’s current operating hours. Families were not available until after work and/or on the weekends.

She also noted there were some issues with offering virtual programming only due to limited access to computers and/or WIFI.

The Committee reviewed their priorities first to determine if offering virtual or in-person would be better suited. Ms. Foley noted that she didn't have any updates on when they would be able to offer more access at that time, she would keep the Committee updated as much as possible.

Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the activities requested of the RFPs. She noted there was a strong request for Teens, She listed out the requests from the Branch staff, FATC committee members, and members of the Friends. She noted that children and teens could likely attend after school if space allowed.

The Committee discussed some ideas for youth or teen programs where they noticed they had the most gaps in programming already funded. There was an increase of teens coming to do homework after school which could potentially be a great target time. Mr. Knight noted that Homework Assistance Programming typically ends around 5:30pm. They suggested offering more technology focused programs like Minecraft or the use of 3d printers but noted they were limited to only one evening which impacted what they could capture for programming.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted that educational and cultural programming were invited, and a special interest in finding some financial literacy programs (example: banking, repairing credit, saving, budgeting, and investing).

She continued that they were looking for services for those formerly incarcerated (clearing and sealing incarceration records-CORI). Also, career building programs (including resume writing, interviews, and job search skills). She provided assistance for the instructions on how to apply for grants and fellowships.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted that she had put out the request for proposals to serve those areas, but welcomed any assistance in finding applicants from the Committee.

The Committee discussed the current reality of the library during COVID. They asked a few questions regarding the RFP process and timeline which was itemized in the materials provided. Any new programs would not be begin before the end of February and end contracts by June 17th, before the end of the fiscal year.

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the request for proposals.

Next, Ms. Arana Ortiz moved to New Business and the Program Manager's contact. Ms. Foley explained that they would be approving January 2021-June 2022 in the amount of \$63, 550.

Ms. Arana Ortiz called for a motion that was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve via a roll call.

VOTED: "that, the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to approve the Program Manager contract of Candelaria Silva-Collins of Dorchester, MA in the amount of Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty

Dollars and Zero Cents (\$63,550) for January 2021-June 2022.”

Ms. Arana-Ortiz reviewed the current balance for the fund’s annual distribution which was \$196,267.78. She noted the Fund was doing very well under the guidance of the Finance and Audit Committee.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked for Public Comment.

Elizabeth Nagarajah, President of the Friends of the Roxbury Library liked the focus of the RFPs and the targeted audiences. She was also glad to see the approval of Ms. Silva Collin’s contract and recognized her work for the branch.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R. Carver