

**TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON**  
**Meeting of the Trustees as a Corporation and Administrative Agency (First Meeting)**  
Tuesday, May 25, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.  
**MINUTES**

The Annual Meeting of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston (“BPL”) held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

All present at the meeting included: Chair Priscilla H. Douglas, Trustees: Zamawa Arenas, Jabari Asim, Navjeet Bal, Joe Berman, Ben Bradlee, Jr., Cheryl Cronin, Linda Dorcena Forry, John Hailer, Senator Mike Rush, Representative Chynah Tyler, and Christian Westra. Not present: Vice Chair Evelyn Arana-Ortiz and Jeff Hawkins. Also present: BPL President David Leonard, Clerk of the Board Pamela Carver, BPL staff, and members of the public.

Chair Priscilla H. Douglas presided, and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. She read the Trustees reaffirmation statement. A roll call was taken and determined there was a quorum. Everyone was reminded that the meeting was being recorded and to sign up for Public Comment by 9:00 a.m.

The first matter of business was approving the meeting minutes from March 18, 2022. With no edits, a motion was duly made, seconded, and approved the minutes from the March 18, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Douglas began by thanking the two outgoing Trustees, Zamawa Arenas and Joyce Linehan, for their service to the library. She gave special thanks to Ms. Arenas for serving on the Board for sixteen years. Ms. Douglas shared a statement sent by Vice Chair Arana-Ortiz in her absence.

Ms. Douglas announced the two new appointments to the Board were Jose C. Masso III and Lynn Perry Wooten. She paused to allow the trustees to give departing remarks to Ms. Arenas.

Ms. Arenas thanked her fellow Trustees for their kind words of support and noted it was a bittersweet moment for her. It was an incredible privilege and honor to serve on the Board and she was excited for the years ahead for the BPL.

Ms. Douglas continued the order of business and announced some committee updates and that she was updating the committee charters. She announced that the BPL was moved from Arts & Culture to the Human Services Cabinet for the City of Boston under the leadership of Chief Jose Masso.

David Leonard was asked to give his President’s report. He too gave his thanks to the outgoing Trustees for keeping the staff and community at the center of their service. He congratulated Priscilla Douglas on being the commencement speaker for Northeastern University.

Mr. Leonard noted that they added over forty new staff members, 43% identifying as people of color. BPL maintains their mask recommendation in the buildings. He noted that we continue to see attempts at libraries across the country for book banning and censorship.

Mr. Leonard reviewed the FY22 Accomplishments document, making special note of the three capital project renovations of Roxbury, Roslindale, and Adams Street Branches: each winning a separate set of awards. He announced the City Council Ways and Means hearing to review the FY23 budget was scheduled later that day. He explained the South End Branch had experienced a flood. As a result, the library’s heating/cooling systems were damaged; therefore, causing the branch is temporarily closed until a full assessment was done.

Mr. Leonard noted the Faneuil Branch in Oak Square was being renovated and introduced a proposal to dedicate the Children's room by the Friends of the Faneuil Branch. He introduced their President, Anne Mazzola, to present it.

Anne Mazzola thanked the Trustees and President Leonard for allowing her to present the proposal for "JaiJai's Room" at the Faneuil Branch Library. She gave a brief peek into the life of young Jairam "JaiJai's" Rodrigues Rao, whom they proposed to dedicate the children's room after.

Ms. Mazzola explained he had a zest for life in his short seventeen years and was an integral part of the community advocating against the proposed branch closures at public meetings years before. He and his family were fixtures to the Branch staff. His passion and purpose were exemplary for generations to follow. Ms. Mazzola noted they have received a lot of support and thanked the Board for their consideration to approve their proposal.

The Trustees discussed the proposal and thanked the Friends. Mr. Leonard noted that it met all the BPL requirements, and that the administration supported this proposal.

A motion was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve the proposal.

**VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the dedication and renaming of the Children's Room at the Faneuil Branch library, 'JaiJai's Room', after Jairam Miguel Rodrigues Rao."**

Angela Veizaga, Director of Strategic Partnerships presented the MBLC Action Plan. She explained that the action plan was required to be eligible for construction or LSTA grants from the MBLC. The BPL's action plan focused on 5 goals: Community Gathering, Program & Services with a focus on underserved communities and youth, Sustainable Organization, Collections and Special Collections, and supporting our EDI priorities.

Ms. Douglas called for a motion that was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve.

**VOTED: "that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve to accept the Boston Public Library's 2022 Action Plan for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners."**

Roudnie Celestin, Equity Programs Officer gave an update on the BPL's work in progress on equity, diversity, and inclusion ("EDI"). She noted there had been a lot of introspect for oneself and the organization. She explained the 8 working groups that are in the equity program, noting they were closed groups to allow members to collaborate openly in confidence. "*Belong, take action*" is the motto she promotes within the BPL organization.

Ms. Celestin noted several examples of encouraging digital equity (ex. providing Chromebooks and free Wi-Fi to those in need) and ensuring that equitable procurement remains a priority for the BPL (supporting women and black-owned small businesses on the city of Boston business directory).

Next, Ms. Beth Prindle, Head of Special Collections reviewed the Draft Collections Security Policy. By way of background, she noted it started three years prior during an integral part of the renovation. There was a team of managers who worked collectively on it to promote collections safely and actively. The team reviewed standards and guidelines, policy components, they asked for feedback, and went through several iterations and circulated it among several BPL stakeholders and staff.

Ms. Douglas called for a motion that was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve the policy.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the Collection Security Policy as presented.”**

Ms. Prindle then discussed the long-term deposit relationship with the Boston Medical Library (“BML”) and the BPL. The deposit agreement began in 1905. In 1965, the BML & BPL deposit moved to Harvard Medical School at the Francis A. Countway Library. The next step would be to send a dissolution letter from Chair of the Board.

Ms. Douglas called for a motion that was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve to terminate the Boston Medical Library-BPL Deposit Relationship.”**

Mr. John Hailer gave the Finance and Audit Committee report. It was noted that the fire panel vote was put on the agenda in error. He asked Ms. Donaghey to give a brief overview of the Mayor’s budget.

Ellen Donaghey reviewed the City Recommended Budget, Maintenance Budget, Capital Project budget, and External Funds and they were shown on a slide presentation. The budget amounts were estimated, keeping the totals consistent with last year.

With no questions, Mr. Hailer called for a motion that was duly made, seconded, and approved.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston vote to accept Mayor Michelle Wu’s FY23 Recommended Operating and Capital Budget.”**

Mr. Hailer explained that the Mechanical, Electric, and Plumbing contract, Elevator Maintenance contract, as well as the new Audit Firm selection were already reviewed in detail by the Finance and Audit Committee. Their recommendations were before the Board for approval. Each contract was briefly explained. He called for a motion to approve them all. The motions were duly made, seconded, and voted to approve.

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston award a contract to EMCOR Services, 80 Hawes Way, Stoughton, MA 02070 in the amount of Seven Million Six Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$7,672,878.72) to provide mechanical, electrical, and plumbing services for a term of three years.”**

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston award a contract to United Elevator Co., 165 Enterprise Drive, Marshfield, MA 02050 in the amount of Four Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eight Dollars and Zero Cents (\$447,408.00) to provide elevator maintenance and repair services for a term of three years.”**

Next, Mr. Hailer called for a motion that was duly made, seconded, and voted to approve the award of annual contracts. They included:

Contract or Contracts for Various Goods or Services relating to the Critical Repair Operating Budget for FY23

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston authorize the President, or designee, on behalf of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, to enter into a contract or contracts for various goods or services relating to the Boston Public Library Critical Repair Budget for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 provided that each contract entered into pursuant to this authorization shall have been estimated to be less than one hundred thousand dollars**

**(\$100,000.00). In no event will the contracts cumulatively exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00).”**

Contract for the Purchase of Books and Certain Other Library Bibliographical Acquisitions Materials

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston enter into a non-advertised contract, as authorized under G.L., c.30-B, Section 7(a), referred to as a “Procurement of Library Books,” between the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston (a Corporation under Chapter 114 of the Acts of 1878), and the vendors listed therein (including any subsidiaries or agents), for the acquisitions of books and for certain other library bibliographical acquisitions materials, in an amount not to exceed the amount appropriated in the Library Department budget for books and other related bibliographical acquisitions materials, during the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.”**

Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee/Trust Fund FY23 Expenditure

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the expenditure from the Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Fund in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twelve Thousand Seven Dollars and Twenty-Three Cents (\$112,007.23) to support the Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Fund Programmatic Plan for FY23 as recommended by the Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee and to be presented at an upcoming meeting.”**

Review of delegation of certain contract approvals for the Board of Trustees

**VOTED: “that, the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston delegate approval of any contract deemed to be of a critical nature by the President of the Library during the period between May 2022 and September 2022 to the Finance and Audit Committee.”**

Next, Ms. Douglas called for any new business. She reviewed some upcoming programs on the BPL Calendar. Mr. Leonard informed everyone that he just received word the City Council Budget hearing was postponed.

Ms. Douglas asked for public comment.

Elissa Cadillic, President of AFSCME 1526, supported the Faneuil branch children’s room dedication. She commented that there was nothing in capital project budget to improve the air systems in the buildings. She requested that HEPA filters be included and should be raised at the City Council Ways and Means hearing. She noted it was a great presentation on equity.

David Vieira, City-Wide Friends was thrilled to see the Faneuil proposal for “JaiJai’s Room” approved and extended his support of the proposal as well. He asked a few questions regarding the Friends annual breakfast. He sent in a written proposal via the Clerk to be shared with the Trustees. This proposal that the Friends are sponsoring offers supporting grants for the branches for various programs.

Samuel Pierce had questions regarding how the Trustees do business. He questioned the name change for the Dudley Branch to Roxbury Branch. He talked about the historical relevance of Nubian and slavery in Boston. He added discussing new changes, with a new Mayor, new board members, and new administration, and that he would like to see the name of the branch go along with the Community’s sentiments. He requested being transparent and turning the page. He commented that the Board is still majority white and noted that Faneuil was a slave owner.

Sadiki Kamboon, of the Nubian Square Coalition, started with a quote from Maya Angelou. He expressed that he does not hate the name “Roxbury” but rather the way the name change was handled. He reviewed the timeline of 2020 and added he will not go away. He reminded the Board of his process for the renaming of Dudley Square to Nubian Square. He added that they have put pressure on elected officials.

Priscilla Douglas explained that this is considered a closed matter. It is the Roxbury Branch Library at Nubian Square.

With no further business, Ms. Douglas adjourned the first meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board