

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

**Meeting of the Trustees Strategic Planning Committee
Friday, February 17, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.
Central Library, Commonwealth Salon**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Boston Public Library Trustees Strategic Planning Committee (“Committee”) was held at the Central Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston MA 02116 in the Commonwealth Salon on Friday, February 17, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

All members were present at the meeting, including Committee Chair, Christian Westra, Committee Vice Chair, Jose C. Masso III, and Committee Members: Joe Berman, Heidi Brooks, Cheryl Cronin, Karilyn Crockett, Rahn Dorsey, Paula Sakey, Jonathon Soroff (by Zoom), and President David Leonard.

Also, present were Chair of the Board, Priscilla Douglas, Clerk of the Board, Pamela Carver, BPL staff members, and members of the public.

Mr. Christian Westra called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., which was also streamed via Zoom for the public. He read the Trustees EDI statement. The Clerk took a roll call and determined there was a quorum. Everyone was reminded that the meeting was being recorded and to sign up for Public Comment.

The first matter of business was President David Leonard’s review of the public meeting requirements. Mr. Leonard provided a brief background of the MA Open Meeting Law quorum requirements and explained public comment. He also noted that deliberations are public. Members were reminded not to speak to the press regarding the library without discussion with our Chief of Communications, Lisa Pollack.

Next, Mr. Westra called on the committee members to give personal introductions and provide a little background of how they came to be interested in the BPL. Each member gave a brief professional background and noted what they found of interest at the library.

Next, Mr. Leonard reviewed the scope for the Committee’s work. He noted the four pillars of the library philosophy. There are: reading and literacy, space and community gathering, programs and services, and cultural heritage. He explained that the last completed strategic plan was done in 2012 with extensive community input. It resulted in the award winning Compass Principles Strategic Plan. It has been amended recently with the “Roadmap” which serves as a bridge until 2024 when the next iteration will be fully developed.

The Committee discussed what they felt being an urban library in the 21st century meant and should look like. This led to the conversation around what type of stakeholders they should consider in this mission.

The Committee determined the next step was to develop a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for a consultant. They noted a feasible timeline would be to meet once a month to tackle very specific topics each time.

Mr. Westra called for new business for which there was none.

Mr. Westra asked for public comment. Lisa Pollack, Chief of Communications and Michael Colford, Director of Library Services introduced themselves and welcomed each of the members to the Committee.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela R. Carver, Clerk of the Board