

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

Held via Zoom

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at noon via Zoom.

Present members of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee included: Chair and Trustee Evelyn Arana Ortiz along with Committee members: Priscilla Foley, Jacqueline Johnson, Allen Knight. Vice Chair Chynah Tyler and Elizabeth T. Nagarajah were absent.

Also present: Dianna Preusser, Assistant Neighborhood Services/Branches Manager, Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Program Manager, Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board, and Chair of the Board Priscilla H. Douglas.

The Clerk noted the meeting was being recorded and reminders to sign up for public comment. Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 12:15p.m. She read the opening statement. The Clerk took roll call and determined there was a quorum. The first item on agenda was approval of meeting minutes from February 16, 2023 which were approved.

Ms. Arana Ortiz thanked former committee member, Che Madyun, for her service to the Committee and her commitment to the Roxbury Branch. The Trustees and the BPL appreciate her dedication for so many years and hope to have her continued support.

Ms. Arana Ortiz reviewed the FY24 expenditure of \$110,886.00. She noted the carryover amount will be determined at the August meeting once all June and July invoices have been settled.

Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services gave some general BPL updates. She highlighted some of the programming that was offered systemwide that complemented the FATC funded programs.

Next, the Program Manager for the Fellowes Athenaeum Fund contract with Candelaria Silva-Collins for FY24 was discussed and voted on. (Ms. Silva-Collins left the Zoom while they discussed her contract terms).

Diana Preusser, Asst. Neighborhood Services Manager, explained the program manager was paid hourly with an average of fifteen hours per week, as noted in the contract. Priscilla Foley added that the Committee must follow the PSA union contract guidelines regarding any increases and cannot exceed what BPL staff were given. The Committee agreed to a new hourly rate of \$54.10 not to exceed \$42,194.77 for the year. (This reflected a 1% rate increase per committee discussion).

A motion was duly made, seconded, and voted with the amended language,

VOTED: “that, the Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Fund Advisory Committee of the Public Library of the City of Boston approve the Program Manager contract with Candelaria Silva-Collins for FY24 not to exceed Forty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Four dollars and Seventy-Seven cents. (\$42,194.77).”

Ms. Candelaria Silva Collins reviewed photos from the FY23 programming. She discussed the attendance for each program (pending final reports that may reflect different numbers).

1. Faith Johnson, Movement and Meditation = 6-8 attendees
2. ArtsEmerson, Play Reading Book Club = 6-20 attendees
3. Ayana Bean, Beyond the Bars = 3-13 attendees
4. Brazilian Dance Class = 10-13 in classes and 75 in performance; teen participation never took off
5. Chess Wizards, from 8-14 participants
6. Brenda Huggins/Poetry Live, 12-15 participants
7. Haley House, 12-14 in and 10-15 in the other (approximately 25-30 total)
8. Take the A train, TBD in June
9. Deb Cox, know your rights, approx. 20 participants.
10. Latino pioneers 75+ attended.
11. Makanda Project, Nov. 90-107 attended, 1432 online views. Feb show had 70-108 attendees (but was not online)
12. Math for life, 2-4 with 2 parents, was very good but after school time was tough.
13. Movers and Makers, TBD in July
14. City Strings, 15-30 participants
15. Roxbury Concert Series, 9, 5, 100+
16. Piano Classes, 15-24 students, Recital 75
17. Sewing 101, 11 started, 8 finished.
18. Genealogy Bootcamp/Tracing our Roots, 15 (Notable: one person found her father in the class)
19. Smartphones, 4-7 participants
20. Intro to Chakra & Chair Yoga, 7 sessions total (24 attendees total/approximately 8 at each session)

Ms. Silva-Collins reviewed the RFP briefly and noted that she merged some of the language. She reviewed the timeline and orientation date to assist potential grantees with the process. She encouraged the Committee members to send any leads her way for her to assist with the application process.

Ms. Silva-Collins noted some issues with scheduling due to limited branch space and having to run multiple programs simultaneously in the branch. She suggested a gap period between programs to allow for better flow with setup/breakdown and any necessary cleaning.

The Committee voted to have the next meeting on August 17th at 12pm via Zoom to review and vote on the grant proposals.

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked for any new business and public comment for which there was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R. Carver