

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

Held virtually via Zoom.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Present at the meeting were: Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee Evelyn Arana Ortiz, Committee Members: Priscilla Foley, Allen Knight, and Elizabeth T. Nagarajah. Jacqueline Johnson and Rep. Chynah Tyler were absent.

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

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 12:31 p.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 August 17, 2023, which were approved.

Priscilla Foley gave brief general BPL updates. She was very excited to announce (with the exception of two branch locations) that starting in 2024, the BPL will be open 9-5pm on Saturdays. Programs are continuing 6 days a week systemwide for which she highlighted a few. They hired sixteen new staff members in branches.

Ms. Silva-Collins gave updates on the start of all FY24 programs and gave an overview of those that started in October to present. There was a wide variety of arts, instruction, health & well-being program categories and target audiences. She noted one was featured on WCVB's "Chronicle".

Piano classes for kids began on October 7th. Mama Used to Say Chair Yoga and Principles ran in October. There were two Roxbury concerts of the series. The Makanda Project featuring Dee Alexander was on November 4th. There was one Sewing 101 Bootcamp and Chess Class. Sewing classes had begun in the fall as well.

Ms. Silva-Collins shared some photos from some of the classes along with a sampling of the brochures. There were two features in the Bay State Banner for Take Back the Kitchen with the Haley House and the Roxbury Concert Series.

Ms. Silva-Collins concluded her report by noting that the attendance at the programs was up at this time and that she will do periodic drop-ins on the programming.

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked for new business. The Committee discussed their next meeting would be on March 21, 2024, 12:00-1:00 p.m. at the Roxbury Branch in Nubian Square. Pending inclement weather, they may change to virtual if needed. Notification would be addressed accordingly by the clerk.

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked for public comment, for which there was none.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R. Carver