

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes May, 10, 2023

Fitchburg Public Library
610 Main Street, Fitchburg MA

Trustees present were: Chair Matthew Bruun, Sabrina Holley-Williams, Mary Rice Hurley, Joanne Huse, Cynthia Jones, Jacalyn Kremer, and Eric Mbunwe. Also present were Director Deb Hinkle and Assistant Director Jean Tenander.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of April 12, 2023

The minutes of the April 12, 2023 Trustees Meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Bruun said since the last time the Trustees convened, he and Director Hinkle met with the Mayor, the Building Commissioner Mark Barbadora, Colliers Project Manager Tony DiLuzio, the Mayor's Chief of Staff Natalia Oliver, and the Director of Facilities Russ Karlstad. Chair Bruun said the meeting was positive and the message he and Director Hinkle conveyed was one of seeking to move forward as swiftly as possible.

Chair Bruun said the rest of his report would be included under the Building Committee report.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

A motion was made to accept the changes to the Donations Policy protocols discussed at the previous meeting. The Trustees unanimously voted to accept the policy as presented.

Director Hinkle said because several libraries who were on the list to receive building funding from the MBLC have had to drop out, the Mass. Library Construction Program has been able to give us 4.9 million dollars immediately. This is not extra money but money we could have had a longer wait to receive. The MBLC contract for the grant award will be sent to the Mayor to sign.

She said the Library had decided several months ago to curtail programming in the expectation that the move to the temporary location would take place in the spring. As we will not be relocating before the end of summer, we will schedule more events. This allows the Summer Reading Program in the Youth Library to proceed without interruption.

The Library Staff Association has successfully negotiated a new contract allowing 2 years of retroactive cost of living payments. The previous contract expired in 2021. The next 3 year contract begins in June 2023. The Staff Association is currently in negotiations regarding this new contract.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee- Joanne Huse said the report from First Financial was positive.

Building Committee- Chair Bruun said the meeting he and Dir. Hinkle had with various City officials, referred to earlier, resulted in the recognition that some of the original plans for the temporary space will have to be re-drafted. He said the meeting had been very positive and more lines of communication were opening. Tony DiLuzio of Colliers said he is hopeful that a process that normally takes 5 to 6 weeks could be shaved down by 2 or 3 weeks.

Russell Karlstad, Director of Facilities, said as soon as the storage space is cleaned we can move appropriate items into it.

Dir. Hinkle said there is a meeting of the Communications Team for fundraising next week. She said we need to begin publicizing the move and our renovation and expansion building project.

She said we have applied for Congressional funding of a million dollars which would go into the fund the Fundraising Committee is raising. The goal of the Committee is 3.5 million dollars.

She said 90% of the construction documents are ready and we go out to bid for a general contractor in July. The delay in moving into the temporary space has not delayed the planned schedule for beginning construction.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jean Tenander for
Cynthia Jones