

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting for Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

**Location: Zoom**

**Attending:** Maria McCauley, Michael Baenen, Karen Kosko, Jim Roosevelt, Liz Werby, Risa Mednick, Kathy Penny, Idalia Cuevas, Susan Bellows and Carson McGrath

#### **1. Introductions and Hellos**

#### **2. Public Comment:** None

#### **3. Library Updates by Maria McCauley**

Director McCauley provided updates on recent and upcoming Library events and the Central Square Lots Study. She thanked the Trustees for attending and co-hosting the Library Legislative Breakfast on February 23. The Library welcomed 45 guests to the space, including City leaders, state and national legislators, and Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner staff members. Trustee Liz Werby said the event was a wonderful opportunity for the community to hear and think about the issues libraries are facing not only in Cambridge, but across the country.

Director McCauley also mentioned CPL celebrated staff at the Staff Appreciation Dinner held in the Reading Room at the Main Library on Friday, March 1. The community honored 12 employees on their 5-, 10- and 15-year milestones at CPL. Director McCauley told the group there was a great turnout and thanked the Executive Assistants, Krystle Bairos, and the Communications and Events team for their organizing of the event.

Director McCauley gave an update on the Central Square Lots Study and the discussion of the issue at the City Council Meeting on March 4. She said there was a lot of comment from the City Councilors on the study, with their biggest comment being the wish for more public engagement around the planning process. As of right now, the City is looking to utilize two out of the three floors at the 689 Mass Ave site for the possible relocation of the CSQ Branch. Director McCauley thanked Trustees Michael Baenen and Risa Mednick for their public comment. She also mentioned President of the Cambridge Public Library Foundation Kate Flaim gave a public comment and spoke on the petition she crafted with more than 500 signatures from community members in support of the 689 Mass Ave site for the Library.

Lastly, Director McCauley said the Library will be hosting several events, including an Eclipse Celebration and Concert at the Main Library, in recognition of the April 8 eclipse.

#### **4. Voting in New Chairperson of the Board of Trustees**

Trustee Karen Kosko put forward a motion to nominate Trustee Jim Roosevelt as Chair. Trustee Liz Werby seconded the motion. Executive Assistant Carson McGrath did a roll call of votes. All Trustees confirmed their support for Jim Roosevelt; he was voted in as the new Chair of the Trustees. After, he expressed his gratitude and honor for the appointment.

#### **5. Intellectual Freedom Presentation with Kathy Penny**

Manager of Collection Services, Kathy Penny gave a presentation to the Board on the Library's Intellectual Freedom Training. Though this training focuses on the Library's collection policies, Kathy mentioned Intellectual Freedom affects nearly all of the Library's work. The training covers definitions and laws pertaining to Intellectual Freedom, the Library's Collection Development Policy, and CPL's materials for reconsideration form and process. Kathy said she also covers the national landscape surrounding book and materials challenges in libraries across the country by assigning each staff member attending the training one of the American Library Association's Top 13 Most Challenged Books of the year to review and report on. The training also teaches staff how to interact with patrons when receiving a comment or challenge regarding an item in the Library's collection through the L.E.A.R.N. method.

#### **6. Budget Overview with Idalia Cuevas**

Manager of Finance and Operations Idalia Cuevas gave a brief overview of the Library's finances and the current budget landscape for FY25.

#### **7. Approval of February Minutes**

Trustee Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for questions or comments on the February Minutes. The Trustees had no changes. Trustee Liz Werby motioned to approve the Minutes; Trustee Karen Kosko seconded. The motion was approved by Chair Jim Roosevelt.