

Cambridge Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees  
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on Monday, February 8 at 6:30 PM in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- William Barry
- Andre Mayer
- Patricia Payne
- James Roosevelt

Also present:

- Susan Flannery, Director of Libraries
- Marilyn Gagalis, Administrative Assistant

Minutes from the December 2009 meeting and January 2010 joint meeting with Friends of the Library were approved.

Correspondence was acknowledged from:

- Allison M Crump, Cambridge Heritage Trust
- Wendell Bourne, Cambridge Public Schools
- Joyce Mathon Trotman, Hildebrand Family Center
- Al Dyson
- Eva Martin Blythe, YWCA
- Robert S. Hurlbut, CCF
- James Maloney, Cambridge Public Schools
- Miriam Goldberg
- Alice Chen, Cambridge Public Schools
- Jeff Mayersohn, Harvard Book Store
- Chris Saheed, Cambridge Public Schools

Board members discussed the library park issue as it relates to Article 97 and the initiative that was introduced by the City Manager. They raised their concerns as both trustees and concerned citizens. Andre Mayer will draft a letter to the City Manager regarding this matter.

It was suggested that the library pursue the possibility of naming a square near the Boudreau Branch after former Board Chairperson Olive Johnson. Janet Axelrod will investigate potential sites and the process necessary to accomplish this goal.

Susan Flannery updated the board on personnel matters relating to two retirements and one resignation.

Branch updates:

- Collins Branch is now shelving books and preparing for opening later in the month.

New Main Library update:

- A curb is planned for the end of the walkway.

- Although there are no plans for a full café, the board agreed that the food component was important. More vending machines could be an option temporarily. Board members suggested approaching neighborhood businesses about rotating food services in the library. Ms. Flannery said it is not the highest priority until we get the building issues addressed. She also mentioned that the selection of a vendor may be subject to public bid.

Janet Axelrod spoke about the December 5<sup>th</sup> Trustees event. Although it was a success and there were many in attendance, it was suggested that they plan another event to meet the architect, William Rawn. Ms. Axelrod will also prepare a letter along with FAQs to send to those who did not attend.

The Board discussed a recent City Council order relating to the naming of some part of the building in memory of Brother Blue. The Board was reluctant to take such a step in light of the newness of the building and the lack of a policy in place on this issue. They were concerned about setting a precedent without considering all potential issues. Ms. Axelrod will draft a letter to the City Manager.

The Board reviewed a rough draft of the Meeting Room Policy for the Main Library and gave general approval to fully develop it.

Ms. Flannery presented a proposal from former Mayor Frank Duchay to have the library participate in some meaningful way in the dedication of a small park on Mt. Auburn St. in memory of David Halberstam. The Board was enthusiastic about a series on the press, the future of newspapers, etc. in the information age to be conducted in the fall.

The Board was also enthusiastic about former Mayor Duchay's proposal for a reunion on the library/CRLS site in 2012 when all construction on the site is completed.

Ms. Flannery announced that the opening ceremonies and events for the Cambridge Science Festival will be held on the library/CRLS (both indoors and out) site on April 24. There will be readings of Nobel Award winning research for most of the day on May 1 in the Lecture Hall.

She also informed the Board that the Main Library has been selected by the BOSTON GLOBE MAGAZINE as one of the "Best of the New" for 2010.

The next meeting of the Board of Library Trustees will be on March 15, 2010 at 6:30 in the Trustees' Room of the Main Library, 449 Broadway.

Andre Mayer, Secretary