

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
June 4, 2019
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on June 4th at 5:00pm in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- Karen Kosko
- Patricia Payne
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods
- *Also present:* Maria McCauley, Director of Libraries; Joy Kim, Deputy Director of Libraries; Maureen Sullivan, Consultant; Reinhard Engels, Innovation & Technology; Becky Rowlands, Borrower Services; Kathy Penny, Collection Services; Diana Fendler, Adult Services; Jason Yee, Branch Services Manager; Julie Roach, Youth Services; Michael Monestime, Executive Director of Central Square Business Association
- *Absent:* Omowale Moses

Minutes from the May 7th meeting were approved.

New Business

- **Strategic Planning:** Ms. Kim & Ms. McCauley presented the draft Strategic Plan to the Trustees, highlighting changes since the May meeting. This draft included an overview of the new sections: a featured Strategic Initiative (STEAM), statistics for Cambridge & the Cambridge Public Library, User Needs Assessment, and details of the planning process. We hope to have the Trustees' approval in September, when the plan will be submitted to the MBLC. Action Plans will be developed by staff over the summer and be shared with the Trustees at a future date.

Ms. Sullivan shared that she believes the Steering Committee has a deep understanding of serving the community, the challenges ahead, and that they are ready to move forward. Ms. McCauley shared her appreciation of the time and care the staff put into creating this plan and for Joy and Maureen's strong leadership. CPL managers shared their reflections on participating in the process. Many felt it was a valuable learning experience, appreciated the effort made to gather community feedback, and felt that the document identified our areas of focus and clearly explained what we will be doing and why.

Trustees shared that they were impressed with the work performed and the resulting plan. Ms. Payne stated that implementation would be the key and that the Trustees needed to identify their role in it. Ms. Woods was impressed by the staff's ability to thoroughly understand the plan, and to be able to speak to it. Mr. Roosevelt shared that, once the plan was approved, we should consider holding an open community meeting to report out on the plan and that Trustees should plan to attend. Ms. McCauley stated that communications will be a priority and that the Library will have to work hard to inform all (staff, community, stakeholders, elected officials, partners).

Action Item: Trustees to review the draft plan and provide feedback at their earliest convenience.

- **Central Square Business Association:** Mr. Monestime introduced himself and shared that he is campaigning for the Central Square Business Association, which will work to enliven Central Square. Priorities for this group will include cleanliness, safety (including the vulnerable populations within this community) and making the area more welcoming & family-friendly. The Association does not wish to duplicate services offered by the city, but to offer supplemental services. This work will be funded by taxes paid by businesses within the district, including the City of Cambridge. Mr. Monestime shared that he hopes that the Library will participate as a member of its Board.

Trustees shared their concern that the proposed mural for the Central Square branch doesn't use the term "Library" and that the visual is not clear about what is happening on the inside of the building. This would be helpful because of the lack of clear signage. Ms. McCauley reminded Trustees that new signage is planned for after the mural is completed. Mr. Monestime suggested that the Trustees meet with the mural artist to discuss their concerns and that he feels she is quite flexible about the words on the mural. He said this meeting must happen fairly quickly, as the artwork is scheduled to be painted in August. Ms. Payne suggested that a Special Meeting of the Trustees be called to meet with the muralist before the end of June.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to schedule a Special Meeting for Trustees and the muralist before the end of June.

Action Item: Ms. McCauley to talk to the artist about signage placement.

Action Item: Ms. Axelrod to write a letter to City Council before next Monday on behalf of the Library in support of the Central Square Business Association.

- **Appreciation of Pat Payne:** As this was to be Ms. Payne's final meeting as a Trustee, the board members thanked her for her valuable work over the past 15 years and stated how much they have appreciated her efforts.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Woods, Secretary