

**Minutes**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting for February**  
**Tuesday, February 7**

**Attending:** Hunter McKenzie, Maria McCauley, Nancy Woods, Kaija Langley, Karen Kosko, Michael Baenen, Risa Mednick, James Roosevelt

**Guests:** Clara Hendricks

1. **Public Comment:** None.

2. **Informal Check-in**

- Director of Libraries (DOL) is busy, but grateful and thinking about those affected by the recent earthquake.
- Trustee Woods is reflective of her time on the Trustees - as this is her final Trustees meeting.
- Trustee Kosko is signing up for her college reunion at BU.
- Trustee Baenen is happy to be here. His swearing-in was his first experience like this.
- Risa Mednick has not been sworn in just yet but will be next week when she returns from travels.
- Trustee Roosevelt is in California and has not been sworn in yet for his reappointment. He thinks the Board has a really good future ahead with our newly sworn-in Trustees.
- Chair Langley is busy as she is preparing to travel to Los Angeles for a funeral this upcoming weekend. For the March Board of Trustees meeting, the Chair will be in Washington DC lobbying Congress to fund libraries and will not be present.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair moved for minutes from the January meeting to be approved. Trustee Kosko and Trustee Mednick seconded the motion and minutes were approved unanimously.

4. **Director of Libraries Report / Library Updates**

- Branch Updates
  - i. The DOL gave a special mention to the Communications Department and the Central Square Branch Library for their coordination and efforts on the 48th annual Martin Luther King Day Event with Dr. Annette Gordon-Reed. DOL mentioned that it says a lot about Cambridge community commitment that this was the 48th annual celebration.
  - ii. DOL shared that the launch of the Black Voices collection at the Central Square Library coordinated with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event. DOL highlighted that this launch is part of the Library's commitment to elevate Black and Brown voices as well as anti-racism efforts.

- iii. DOL shared that the Literacy program began a new 10-week long citizenship class at the end of January.
  - iv. DOL shared that the Collins Branch Library held a story time that featured Polar Wildlife stories in early January.
  - v. DOL shared that starting in February, the Collins Branch Library has added a new weekly Wednesday storytime.
  - vi. DOL shared that in late January the O'Connell Branch Library hosted a Valentine Card Making Workshop that was facilitated by a local artist.
  - vii. DOL shared that the O'Connell Branch Library's Youth Services Librarian resumed outreach to the East End House, which paused with the pandemic.
  - viii. DOL shared that the Boudreau Branch Library hosted the first meeting of the Mystery Book Group in late January.
  - ix. DOL shared that the Boudreau Branch Library will be hosting Wingmasters during the February winter school break.
  - x. DOL shared that the O'Neill Branch Library began a series of sewing classes that have been extremely well-received.
  - xi. DOL shared that the O'Neill Branch Library's Youth Services Librarian began outreach and storytimes at Pine Village, a Spanish language immersion school.
  - xii. DOL shared that the Valente Branch Library began offering weekly Teen Tuesday programs in January.
  - xiii. DOL shared that the Valente Branch Library began a new monthly book club for ages 8-12 in January.
  - xiv. DOL shared that weekly evening ESOL classes have resumed at Valente Branch Library after a holiday break.
- Facilities Updates
    - i. DOL shared that the Library is working with a contractor to prepare for refurbishing in the Lewis Room.
  - Main Library
    - i. DOL shared that there is a new Creative Aging Improv Series that began in January. She shared that this is a really wonderful program for ages 55+, and that this ongoing series has had a variety of topics such as stand-up comedy to drawing. DOL thanked the Foundation's support for this well-received series.
    - ii. DOL shared that the Cambridge Black History Project honored local Black Trailblazers for a reception and talk in late January with 100 people in attendance in-person and 52 people in attendance virtually. DOL also shared that the event was covered by WBZ local news. Hunter McKenzie shared the article with the Trustees.
    - iii. DOL shared that the Teen Advisory Board was re-launched in January with six new teen members who came with ideas for tutoring support, therapy dog presence during exam time, a teen poetry contest, and a book group. DOL shared that she is excited to see these ideas happen.
    - iv. DOL shared that the Children's Room has begun incorporating some passive programming, such as a craft table and a scavenger hunt, which patrons have been very responsive to. DOL also shared that Youth Services Librarians have

found that it's nice to have a balance of active and passive activities for children who prefer to work alone and at their own pace.

- v. DOL shared that the Cambridge Rindge and Latin Astronomy class welcomed to the public a demonstration of their final board game projects, which were created in the Hive after visiting the space throughout the semester to build 3D printed and laser cut games.
- vi. DOL shared that the STEAM Academy course for middle school-aged youth, in collaboration with Innovators for Purpose, launched this January.
- vii. DOL shared that Paul Trunnell, previously a member of the Borrower Services team, was promoted to Teen Librarian this past month.
- viii. DOL shared that Jeff Goldenson has been welcomed to the Library as the Interim Manager of the Hive through June 2023.
- Save The Date
  - i. DOL shared that on February 21 in The Hive, the Library will be hosting "Tinker Tuesday," an open house event for children ages 8-11, where they will engage in various hands-on making projects and design challenges while learning about The Hive space. DOL asked that the Board of Trustees help publicize this event to families.

#### 5. Cambridge Public Library Foundation Updates

- DOL shared that the Foundation is on track and acknowledged ongoing conversation about the confusion between the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library and the Cambridge Public Library Foundation. Chair Langley and DOL have started to explore what would be to happen if the Friends and the Foundation merged, though they said this won't happen immediately.

#### 6. Additional Comments

- Dream Big
  - i. Trustee Kosko mentioned the upcoming rescheduled Dream Big event, which the Library and Foundation will need help promoting.
  - ii. DOL explained to new Trustees that the Foundation in partnership with the Library puts together an ongoing series centered around a theme that will have community resonance. This upcoming program's theme is Journalism, and previously had to be rescheduled due to illness. DOL asked the Trustees to spread the word about the new date in March.
  - iii. Trustee Kosko pointed out that this is an in-person event and DOL said it could possibly be in some capacity a hybrid virtual event.
- Lecture Hall
  - i. Trustee Woods asked DOL how the funding for the Lecture Hall project is going. DOL confirmed the Library has the green light to go out to bid for the costing and highlighted that this is a priority of Warren Pearson, the Facilities Manager.
- Hiring Process

- i. Trustee Kosko asked for an update on the hiring process. DOL shared that since last August, the Library has filled 100 positions, but that there have been a lot of backfills due to internal hires.

## **7. CPL Budget Priorities**

- i. DOL shared the Library's budget priorities with the Board after a Capital discussion with the Capital Committee this past week. Those requests include: a gender inclusive bathroom based on a study recently done, controls partition at Valente Branch Library, ongoing capital support for maintenance at the Main Library, and funding regarding the vision the Library has for the Central Square Branch.
- ii. DOL explained that MBLC now allows the Library to put some material funds towards Take Out Technologies, which the Library couldn't do before. DOL believes that this will demonstrate to the city some creative savings and spending efficiency, which department heads have been asked to do.
- iii. DOL shared that the Library is also coordinating with the city on more support for branch leadership, IT support, day-of scheduling, and support operating language translation services as part of language justice.

## **8. Adjournment**

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion to adjourn was seconded by Trustee Roosevelt and Trustee Kosko and the meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.