

March 10, 2015

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Worcester Public Library was called to order at 5:11 p.m. at the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA.

Directors Present:

Deborah Packard
Judy Finkel
Dianne Bruce
William Belcher
Brittany Durgin
Carolyn Noah
Matthew Bejune
Phyllis Harrington
Jacob Sanders
Collins Nuamah
James Kersten

Director's Absent:

Joshua Perro

Staff Present:

Tracey Leger-Hornby
Denise McGinley
Paula Korstvedt
Pingsheng Chen
Sulma Rubert-Silva
Cynthia Bermudez
Linnea Sheldon
James Estrella
Brendan Ryan

Guest's present:

Chrissy Murray, WPL Foundation
Dr. Robert Sorrenti

1. Call to Order.
Packard called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.
2. Minutes of February 10, 2015. Packard asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.
There being none, Bruce moved, seconded by Belcher to approve the minutes.
The minutes of February 10, 2015 were approved.
3. Pingsheng Chen gave a brief overview of Hoopla, which is a Netflix-like service or library card holders that supplement the OverDrive service. Hoopla is a new way to stream and temporarily download movies, music and TV shows. Chen reported that 500 patrons have registered so far to use Hoopla and that the limit is 4 items a month; movies and TV can be checked out for 3 days; music albums for 7 days and audiobooks for 21 days.
4. President's Report. Packard recognized Leger-Hornby and thanked her for the assistance she has given the Library and the Board. Packard reported that Dickinson will start on March 16th and that Leger-Hornby will transition him that

week. The Board Retreat is scheduled for April 14 immediately after the Board meeting.

5. Head Librarian's Report. Leger-Hornby introduced Linnea Sheldon, the Library's part-time communications hire; and reported that Priya Subramanian was an internal promotion for a GL4 position.

6. Finance Committee, Harrington.

Harrington reported that the Committee approved the February 10, 2015 minutes which included a discussion on the cost of the Major Taylor Statue. Harrington reported that the Foundation met with the Finance Committee with regard to the Library's relationship with them and that the Committee would be meeting further to discuss the matter.

Bruce moved, seconded by Belcher to accept the Finance Committee Report.

7. Committee on Administration: Finkel.

Finkel reported the Committee met on February 13, 2015 to review a Parent Laptop Policy in the Children's Room; Circulation Policies and a Patron Behavior Policy which were before the Board for approval.

Bejune moved, seconded by Belcher to approve the updates to the Circulation policies. The policy was approved unanimously.

Bruce moved, seconded by Noah to approve the Parent Laptop Policies and Procedures.

The policy was approved unanimously.

Rubert-Silva spoke about the Patron Behavior Policy and that the LIC Committee and Law Department reviewed the same. The biggest concern is food in the Library and the policy, as written, states food can only be eaten at the Friends Café and only if it is purchased at the Café. There were several concerns by the Board with regard to the policy i.e., the age limitation for the Teen area may give students the impression that teens and students who are 18 or 19 may not feel welcome; with the Commonwealth's legalization of marijuana there may be a contradiction as to what constitutes "illegal drugs"; the vagueness of the reference to loitering especially because the Library is a warmth and cooling center, and the question as to what is "offensive" with regard to odor, especially because perfume or cologne could be considered offensive; there were questions raised as to bag sizes that are brought into the Library and that legal suits filed with the Courts on behalf of the homeless population have had positive decisions in their favor; there was also a question as to the appeal period.

Noah moved, seconded by Belcher to approve the motion.

Harrington, Kersten and Durgin opposed the motion. Kersten stated that the opposition is not based on the lack of trust of staff that the policy will be carried out, but that someone's rights may be violated and it opens the Library up to potential litigation.

8. Friends Liaison, Bruce. Bruce reported that the Friends are preparing for their May book sale and that "Worcester the City that Reads" will be partnering with the Friends on the book sale to defray the cost of the new Welcome Bags. Bruce was asked to follow-up on the Union Station bookshelf.
9. Foundation Liaison, Finkel. Chrissy Murray reported that Quinsigamond Community College has signed a contract for funding Lilly. Additionally the

Foundation will be having their own meet and greet of Geoffrey Dickinson and they are working on the Author's Event.

10. Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated. Sanders reported that he attended the recent WRA meeting on the Theatre District which was an overview of plans for urban development. Sanders stated that he gave testimony to the WRA and asked that the Library Board of Directors be included in discussions and he feels there is some opportunity with the Citizens Advisory Committee. Belcher reported that the Black Veteran's exhibit in February was a huge success and thanked the Board for their support.
11. Adjournment. There being no further business, Belcher moved seconded by Sanders to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Judy Finkel, Secretary

(Recorded by Denise H. McGinley)