

MINUTES AND REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: March 8, 2017

PLACE: Worcester Public Library
3 Salem Square
Worcester MA 01608

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Finkel, President; O'Connor, Vice President; Comes, Treasurer;
Pasha, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT: Dickinson

The meeting was called to order at 8:02a.m.

1. Board Retreat Planning – Judy Finkel

Finkel presented the idea of having a board retreat event following a regular meeting at some point in the near future. The committee discussed the rationale and goal for a retreat. Some of the potential purposes and topics included teambuilding (acknowledging that there are many newer members on the Board); the Board's role in advocacy for the Library; Board communications; and larger themes, such as the Library's role in the city's growth and success, and a review of what other successful libraries are doing.

Several potential facilitators were reviewed and discussed. Finkel will reach out to two of the possible facilitators to discuss engagement. She will present the retreat concept to the full Board for discussion and approval at the next meeting.

2. Head Librarian Report – Geoffrey Dickinson

Dickinson reported the master plan process was beginning with the firm Lerner Ladd Bartels (LLB) already at work assessing the current library spaces and structure. This will be a multi-phase project. The first phase, assessment and budget development, will take approximately three months.

One potential matter that may come up is that the community feedback in the long-range plan project showed a desire for more public meeting space, and the current plans for the renovation of the front door and children's area do not address that concern. There may, therefore, be some added scope to the overall project.

The committee then discussed the general need for flexible and adaptive space; the needs of the public and library patrons will change over time, and it will be important to be forward thinking about the ability to adjust in five to ten years as usage, technology, and community needs may shift over time. Dickinson gave an example that some newer children's rooms in other libraries do not bolt down any furniture. Instead, shelving and

seating furniture is on wheels and can be moved to suit any special programming with ease.

Dickinson also reported on the status of the Youth Services Librarian position.

3. Legislative Leadership Day – Judy Finkel

Finkel reported that she, Comes, and Dickinson had attended Legislative Leadership Day on Beacon Hill on March 7, 2017. They were disappointed to find that the local delegation was not at the State House, but they were able to spend time with some key aides.

Finkel also suggested that Board members utilize the references and links to organizations such as the Massachusetts Library Association to stay informed and to learn more about ways to advocate for the library.

4. Leadership Worcester – Geoffrey Dickinson

Dickinson looked into joining the city's Leadership Worcester program as a means of getting more engaged with community leaders. After some discussion with people familiar with the program, this might not be the best avenue for engagement at the appropriate level. Pasha suggested another local leadership group, Higher Education Consortium of Central Massachusetts, and will connect Dickinson with that group.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15a.m.