

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 9, 2022

Fitchburg Public Library
610 Main St. Fitchburg MA, 01420

Trustees present were: Chair Matthew Bruun, Robert Favini, Cynthia Jones, Eric Mbunwe and Jim Walsh. Director Sharon Bernard and Asst. Director Jean Tenander were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 9, 2022.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Bruun attended the City Council meeting which reviewed the proposed allocations of the City's ARPA funds. He said the Library's submission was met with widespread approval. He said the favorability with which it was received led him to believe that when the request to the city council for approval for the entire project is made this fall, it will be looked upon positively.

Director Bernard agreed that it augured well for the City being committed to carry through with the plans for a redesigned and renewed library. She said the City Auditor had been very positive.

Chair Bruun said he will be attending the Central Mass. Library Advocates breakfast this Friday for the first time.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Director Bernard has been working with Jeffrey Hoover from Tappé Architects to finalize the design for the renewed Library. We have acquired the parking area behind the library since the initial drawings were made.

There will be a meeting next week with the construction specialists from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) and the Owners Project Manager to discuss the construction process, whether to have the contractors doing the demolition while the architects are working on the design, or to design, demolish, then build. The first option allows for unforeseen discoveries about the building to be incorporated into the design as they are discovered.

A discussion followed about where the Library will move during construction. Director Bernard said the space City Hall occupied until its building was completed may be available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee—The Trust Fund figures are reported to be down slightly compared to last month's figures.

Legislative Committee—Rob Favini said there is a new website – mblclegislativeagenda.com- which clearly lays out exactly what is being asked for from the legislators.

New Director Search Committee—Chair Bruun said there were two candidates he felt were worth talking to. Both candidates possessed what he and others on the Committee believed to be the appropriate library philosophy. The Committee has questions from both HR and the MBLC. He said he thinks 10 to 15 questions should be sufficient. Trustees will ask the questions of the candidates at the public meetings which will be scheduled soon.

NEW BUSINESS

The Trustees were asked to look at the Library's Collection Development Policy, discuss proposed changes and vote upon the changes.

The Director was recently part of a meeting which discussed the increasing growth of an organized nationwide movement seeking to have certain titles removed from libraries. She said it was important to have a coherent and strong policy in place. All librarians and Trustees should be familiar with it. The Trustees discussed some minor changes to FPL's policy and then voted to accept the changes.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jean Tenander for
Cynthia Jones