

MINUTES OF PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY OF DANVERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Present: Noelle Boc, Jessica Cargile, Irene Conte, Julie Curtis, Charles Desmond, Cory Ryan, Natalie Luca Fiore, D. Michael Hagan, Donna Hopkins, Kenneth Yoon Lee

Guests: Dutrochet Djoko, Jenny Santomauro, Mark Zuberick. Several members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Chairperson Natalie Luca Fiore

Reorganization of the officers of the board:

Election of Chair – Chairperson Natalie Luca Fiore turned the election of Chair to Director Noelle Boc. Boc asked for nominations for Chairperson. Jessica Cargile nominated Natalie Luca Fiore and Donna Hopkins seconded nomination. Luca Fiore accepted the nomination. Where there were no other nominations, a vote was taken. Vote was eight in favor with one abstention. Director Boc then turned elections over to Chair Natalie Luca Fiore.

Election of Vice Chair – Chair Natalie Luca Fiore asked for nominations of Vice Chair. Jessica Cargile nominated Donna Hopkins and Natalie Luca Fiore seconded nomination. Hopkins accepted the nomination. Where there were no other nominations, a vote was taken. Vote was eight in favor with one abstention.

Election of Treasurer – Donna Hopkins nominated Jessica Cargile and Natalie Luca Fiore seconded nomination. Cargile accepted the nomination. Where there were no other nominations, a vote was taken. Vote was eight in favor with one abstention.

Election of Recording Secretary – Donna Hopkins nominated Julie Curtis and Charles Desmond seconded nomination. Curtis accepted the nomination. Where there were no other nominations, a vote was taken. Vote was eight in favor with one abstention.

Public Comments: Several members of the LGBTQ+ community who attended the night's rally before the meeting offered thanks for the library's support of LGBTQ+ programming. Julie Curtis and Donna Hopkins who also attended the event spoke.

Approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2023 trustees meeting: A motion was made by Kenneth Yoon Lee and seconded by Irene Conte to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2023 trustees meeting as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Reports:

Chairperson's Report – Chairperson Natalie Luca Fiore spoke about the terrible shape of many of the 'Little Libraries'. We were reminded that the Rotary Club had offered to care for these little libraries but seemed not to doing so. Director Boc will follow up with the Rotary Club one more time. A suggestion was made to ask citizens to adopt one.

Treasurer's Report – It was decided to table a vote on acceptance of the February-March and March-April treasurer's reports until the June meeting.

Director's Report: Director Noelle Boc reported on several things.

Budget - The library budget was successfully presented to the Finance Committee in April and voted to be approved. The full town budget will be presented at Town Meeting for approval on May 15th.

Building -

The library was depending on receiving Community Preservation Act fund for building repairs. Any repairs not considered crucial will be put on hold. The town will pay to fix the children's room issues. Funding for repair of front walk has already been allocated. When repairs are finally funded, we must respect the historical value.

The Rotary Pavilion is finally being repaired and refurbished. They expect the work to continue until mid or late July. Summer concerts Series is still happening but on an alternate stage in the park.

Staff -

Panic buttons are up to date. SOS company has ordered 5 more.

Two of the library's long time part time Assistant Librarian's Charlotte Jordan and Sue O'Kane, had their last day on May 4th. It was decided to write them thank you notes.

Programs and Technology – The library is over the moon in receiving enough donations to complete our fundraising for the mural project in April. We are currently working out a schedule for when the work can begin with the artist.

The Friends – book sale will be June 12-17th. They will be taking donations in the Gordon Room the whole week of June 5th.

Upcoming Town Events –

Pride Flag Raising at Town Hall and Celebration is June 1st from 4-7 pm.

Race Amity Day Celebration is June 11th from 1-3 pm on the Library Lawn

Juneteenth is Monday, June 19th at 2 pm at Town Hall

Old Business:

Strategic Planning update - there was a very productive planning meeting. The next step is to work on a survey and getting it out within the next few weeks and hiring an expert to come in and to go over space issues. It was decided to add a goal of hiring assistant archivist/assistant librarian assigned to Archives. Director Boc will be speaking to Town Hall regarding funding this position. If Town won't agree to funding, maybe we can speak with the MBLC regarding grant funding a new position. Director Boc will be speaking with Town Archivist Richard Trask about his future plans. If Trask gives a date of retirement, the Town has agreed to fund the position requested for one year before Trask retires. The next Strategic Planning meeting will be held after the survey results is evaluated.

Director Boc reported more employees were taking advantage of receiving funding to take advantage of attending conferences and workshops.

Adjournment: Where there was no other business presented, a motion was made by Donna Hopkins and seconded by Irene Conte to adjourn the May 10, 2023 meeting of the trustees at 8:00 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E. Curtis

Recording Secretary