

## Minutes

### Board of Trustees Meeting for Tuesday, April 9, 2024

#### Location: Main Library Board Room & Zoom

**Attending:** Maria McCauley, Michael Baenen, Karen Kosko, Jim Roosevelt, Liz Werby, Risa Mednick, Warren Pearson and Carson McGrath

#### 1. Introductions and Hellos

#### 2. Public Comment: None

#### 3. Approval of March Minutes

Trustee Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for questions or comments on the March Minutes. The Trustees had no changes. Chair Jim Roosevelt approved the minutes.

#### 4. Facilities Overview & Tour with Warren Pearson

Director Maria McCauley gave a brief introduction to welcome Facilities Manager Warren Pearson to the meeting. Warren gave a few updates on facilities projects across the branches including the plans for a new gender-neutral restroom at Main as part of the Library's equity work and updates to the Lewis Room at Central Square which include lighting, carpeting, and an improved kitchenette. He then took the group to a few spaces in the Library to discuss their architectural importance, including the front entrance, second floor, and the historical staircase near the Rindge Room. The Trustees stopped by the electrical room near the garage as well as the basement where Warren shared technical details about the functionality and purpose of these crucial spaces for the Library.

#### 5. Library Updates with Director Maria McCauley

Director Maria McCauley provided updates on her recent trip to Columbus, Ohio for the Public Library Association's Annual Conference, the Library's Eclipse celebration and recent hiring stats. The Library handed out 5,000 eclipse glasses to the community and welcomed patrons to the Joan Lorentz Park for a musical performance and viewing of the celestial event. Director McCauley also told the group to save the date for the Library's upcoming author event with Natalie Dykstra on Wednesday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. Dykstra is the author of *Chasing Beauty: The Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner*.

The Library is currently hiring for 20 active positions. Director McCauley said the Library most recently hired a new Digital Equity Manager who started on April 8. She relayed that the budget is still in process with the city and won't be finalized until close to the end of the fiscal year. The Tiedemann letter drafted by the Trustees was sent to the Boston Medial Library; Executive Assistant Carson McGrath will update the group when she receives a response.

Director McCauley updated the Trustees on the current bargaining process with the Cambridge Public Library Staff Association. The Library Administration, City, and CPLSA are currently still in the bargaining process. The Trustees debated the appropriateness of CPLSA's email that was originally sent to the City Manager, then forwarded to the Trustees, outlining their concerns. Chairperson Jim Roosevelt went on the record to acknowledge the email, and that the Trustees are aware of the current negotiations.

Trustee Liz Werby asked Director McCauley if there were any updates on the 689 Mass Ave property for the Central Square Branch. Director McCauley said she was able to visit the building; she said the City is currently building the location out for other departments for office use. Trustees plan to continue to advocate for a new Library that has enough space.

Chairperson Jim Roosvelt adjourned the meeting.