

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for September 10, 2024

Location: Hybrid – Main Library & Zoom

Attending: Karen Kosko, Maria McCauley, Risa Mednick, Liz Werby. Virtual: Michael Baenen and Jim Roosevelt.

1. **Public Comment:** None

2. **Informal Check Ins**

The Board of Trustees expressed condolences for the family of City Councilor Joan Pickett. Director Maria McCauley shared the Massachusetts Library System's Accessibility Video that showcased her speaking on the Library's commitment to accessibility alongside other library leaders discussing various accessibility projects for their communities. In the video, Director McCauley spoke in further detail on the new all-gender restroom at the Main Library set for construction this fall.

3. **Approval of Minutes from May 14th Meeting**

Chairperson Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for revisions to the June draft minutes. Trustee Karen Kosko said she attended the June meeting virtually and would need to be added to the attendance of the meeting. Jim instructed Executive Assistant Carson McGrath to make the necessary edit and then approved the minutes.

4. **FY24 Goals Update and FY25 Goals with Director Maria McCauley**

Director Maria McCauley updated the Trustees on the status of the Library's FY24 goals, as well as FY25 goals. Strategic goals support the Library's strategic framework and City priorities. The Library strives to offer an excellent slate of programming and services across all branches. In FY24, CPL welcomed 963,891 visitors, circulated 1.8 million items and held 3,918 public programs. The Library partnered with crucial community organizations such as the Cambridge Black History Project, Cambridge Public School Department, MassHire, and more.

The recruitment and hiring process at CPL has scaled up over the past few years and continued to improve over the past year. Director McCauley applauded Assistant Director for Human Resources Rutuja Patwardhan for her work in this area. She also noted the Library continued their maintenance and capital work in FY24, including finishing work on the Lewis Room at the Central Square Branch and completing HVAC installation at the O'Connell Branch.

Next, Director McCauley noted a few staff trainings that took place this past year, including the annual Staff Development Day in June, as well as a 911 training document with resources for

staff. The Library's digital equity initiative continued with 183 Digital Equity programs held in FY24 with 569 attendees. Director McCauley said the Library effectively managed its' FY24 budget and budget process thanks to the Library and City's Finance teams.

Director McCauley then shared the focus of the Library's FY25 goals with the Trustees which include offering updated social work services to patrons, participating in MBTA outreach to the community, investigating how libraries are developing high school career pipelines to working in libraries, building a new all-gender restroom at the Main Library, and onboarding a new Trustee in their advisory role. She also said the Library plans to roll out new staff Ways of Being, or group norms, based on staff feedback and the Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee's input.

5. Library Updates

Director Maria McCauley shared a few brief library updates on summer programs. In partnership with the Cambridge Arts Council, the Library held Summer Public Art Tours inviting community members to guided one-hour public art walking tours around local Cambridge neighborhoods. The Library also held its Summer Reading program for all ages from June 21 – August 23. Over 1,500 adults and 6,400 youths participated in summer reading bingo this year.

6. Meeting Adjourned

Chairperson Jim Roosevelt proposed to adjourn the meeting. Risa Mednick and Karen Kosko both motioned to end the meeting. The meeting adjourned.