

Alexandria Library Board Minutes

Date

June 22, 2023

Location

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, Board Room

Present

Trudi Hahn, Robert Ray IV, Patsy Rogers, Albert Moseley II, Director Dawson, Deputy Director Labra, Division Chief Gates, HR Manager Drosin.

Excused

Canek Aguirre, Oscar Fitzgerald, Dianne Fox

The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm.

Public Comment

Libby Bawcombe, Vice President/Membership for the Friends of Duncan Library reported on the group's donation of \$15,000 to the Duncan Branch for purchase of juvenile materials, their book sale, their business partnerships, their advocacy and outreach efforts and their concerns regarding Library staff retention and compensation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Moseley to approve the April 17, 2023 meeting minutes, was seconded by Ms. Rogers and was passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Chair Hahn welcomed new Human Resources Manager, Richard Drosin, and wished branch managers Genelle Schuler and Brack Stovall well as they leave employment with the Library. She congratulated the Library for receiving a large grant to digitize documents related to the historic Library Sit-In event. Chair Hahn thanked all that supported the Library's successful Staff Day event in May and thanked the Board for their hard work over the year. Chair Hahn also thanked Library staff, including Director Dawson and HR Manager contractor Linda Wesson who served longer in that role than originally expected. She also thanked Division Chief Gates for her ongoing support of the Board.

Director's Report

Director Dawson welcomed Mr. Drosin and provided a summary of his background, including his work with the District of Columbia Department of Public Works and his service as a veteran of the United States Army. She reported on current system statistics pertaining to patron counts as well as circulation of Library materials and equipment. Director Dawson stated that the 2023 Staff Day was enjoyed by the Library staff, including by many new staff who had attended for the first time.

Director Dawson reported that the Black Family Reunion event hosted by the Library in April 2023 was a major success, receiving both national and local news coverage. She reported that Summer reading programs for children, teens and adults was currently underway.

Director Dawson reported that the Library partnered with New America Foundation who was recently awarded a grant of \$149,571 by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The NHPRC carries out the National Archives grants program. The Library will receive approximately \$130,000 as a sub-grantee in order to tell the story of the Alexandria Library Sit-In of 1939. That project will entail digitizing select portions of the collection, creating an online storytelling exhibit and holding workshops for educators and scholars.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Ray reported that as of May 31, 2023, the Library was 92% of the way through the fiscal year and had expended 82% of its operating budget. The Library received 100% of budgeted State Aid funds and expensed 94% of the annual budgeted amount. The Library collected \$181,293 or 86% of its requirement of \$210,000 in fees revenue. The Law Library received \$33,766 or 84% of the budgeted \$40,000 in filing fees.

Investment Committee Report

Mr. Ray reported that as of May 31, 2023, the market value of the Library's investment account was \$3,449,647.60. Calendar year to date portfolio performance was 5.07% as compared to the benchmark of 5.58%. Portfolio performance over the last twelve months was 0.03%, as compared to the benchmark of -0.12%.

Old Business – FY24 Budget

Mr. Ray asked for an update on the issue of staff compensation. Director Dawson reported that the City Manager's Chief of Staff attended Library Staff Day and explained the City's structure and budget process. Director Dawson stated that while the final FY24 budget had not yet been published, the City Manager had included some funding for implementation of compensation studies pertaining to the Library and to the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Moseley asked about the status of the Law Library and the potential use of that space for the Police body worn camera unit. Director Dawson reported that she had reached out to her City Liaison, Ms. Kelleher, to express her concerns about changes to the use of that space.

New Business – Election of Officers

Mr. Ray made a motion to accept the following slate of officers: Ms. Hahn as Chair; Mr. Ray as Vice Chair; Mr. Moseley as Treasurer; Ms. Rogers as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hahn and approved unanimously.

New Business – Annual Report

Chair Hahn asked Director Dawson if she could contact Mr. Fitzgerald to request that he prepare the Board's annual report and Director Dawson agreed to do so.

New Business – Carryover Funds

Mr. Ray made a motion to approve carryover of the presented funds. Mr. Moseley seconded that motion which passed unanimously.

Chair Hahn stated that she and Mr. Ray would be completing Director Dawson's employment evaluation directly following the meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded by Mr. Ray and approved unanimously at 5:22pm.