



**Rochester  
Public Library**

**More Than You Think**

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
via Teleconference  
May 26, 2021  
Minutes**

**RPL Trustees Present:** D. Benjamin, G. Brandt, A. Drury, G. Gardner, R. Hamilton, D. Karin, J. Lovenheim, S. Salluzzo (quorum present)

**RPL Trustees Excused:** C. Conklin

**Staff and Guests:** City Law liaison, J. Brennan, Esq.; staff members B. Harrison, M. Lewis, A. Suro, A. Traub, P. Uttaro, D. Mansour

**Call to Order**

Ms. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., confirmed a quorum was present, and welcomed trustees, staff, and guests.

**Public Comments**

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to address the Board.

**Meeting Minutes**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 2021. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Personnel Changes**

Ms. Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for the period April 10, 2021 to May 9, 2021 and reviewed the changes with trustees. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to approve the personnel changes as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Financial Reports**

Ms. Harrison called attention to the monthly financial summaries and expense reports for April 2021. She reviewed the highlights with the trustees. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Drury AND SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to approve the monthly financial reports as presented, and as approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Update to 2021-22 Central Library Budget**

Ms. Harrison reviewed the budget highlights and reminded trustees that the county has verbally approved the request for an inflationary one and a half percent increase in funding. She noted the increase of \$44,000 to the budget is considered minor. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve the amended 2021-22 Central Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Update to 2021-22 Community Library Budget**

Ms. Harrison reviewed the budget and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to approve the amended 2021-22 Community Library Budget. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **Central Library Development Aid FY22**

Ms. Harrison reviewed the Central Library Development Aid and explained it has not changed from last year. Ms. Uttaro added that legislation is moving through the state legislature which will blend Central Library Development Aid and Book Aid. If it passes, changes are expected to the regulations governing the use of the Central Library state aid. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Brandt AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve NYSED Central Library Development Aid for the 2021-22 budget cycle. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Baynes joined the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

#### **Amending NYSED Library Construction Grant, Central HVAC**

Mr. Traub reviewed the request. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Ms. Drury to approve an amended acceptance of NYSED Library Construction funds, from \$473,000 to \$510,516, for the Bausch & Lomb building HVAC project. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **Raising a Reader Temporary Support**

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the request and offered to answer any questions. Mr. Brandt asked how the rate was developed. Ms. Harrison explained the rate is consistent with other tutors doing similar work. Mr. Brandt objected to the rate asserting he believes it is too high. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Taylor Coonelly for the services and fee described. THE MOTION PASSED with Mr. Brandt ABSTAINING.

#### **Grant Acceptance, Rochester Regional Library Council Special Projects Grant**

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the request. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Drury AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve acceptance of the Special Projects grant from Rochester Regional Library Council. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **Professional Services Agreement, Lisa Buda**

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the request. Ms. Drury asked for an explanation of Dublin Core. Mr. Traub described it as a newer cataloging language that improves the cataloging of non-book items. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Salluzzo AND SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Lisa Buda. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **Professional Services Agreement, Debergerac Productions**

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the request. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Mr. Gardner to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Debergerac Productions. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)**

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about Mr. Davis' written report. Hearing none, she offered an update on the search committee working to find his replacement. The application deadline is June 11 and the committee is receiving many applications through the online job sites. She also reminded trustees to join the online Sokol Award ceremony happening May 27.

#### **Rochester Public Library Liaison to the Monroe County Library System (MCLS) Board**

Mr. Lovenheim reported that the MCLS Board approved a large number of financial claims. Emily Hessney Lynch was endorsed as a new trustee. The Budget was approved and is stable from years past.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about her written report. Ms. Benjamin asked about the visit to Arnett to congratulate Mary Santiago on winning the RRLC Library All-Star award. Ms. Uttaro reported that Ms. Santiago was grateful for the well-deserved recognition. Next, she reported that the FoodLink café is now open and it is going well so far. The café has received some press in the Democrat & Chronicle and has been mentioned on social media. There is no seating available yet, so some patrons are taking their food to the Carlson Reading Garden on fair weather days. Lastly, Ms. Harrison shared some images of the large art piece that will be installed on the North Terrace in October 2021.

### **Central Library**

Mr. Traub offered to answer any questions about his written report. He asked everyone to read the anecdote from the Teen Central report this month.

### **Branch Libraries**

Ms. Lewis offered to answer any questions about her written report. She reported that Mary Santiago's supervisor shared how impactful the visit from Ms. Uttaro et al. was for Ms. Santiago. Next, she reported that two staff members at the Sully Branch, George Carter and Carmen Gonzalez, were awarded the Donna Grillo Scholarship to further their studies. Lastly, she acknowledged Evanna DiSalvo for her work with new Americans. Ms. Uttaro shared some of the work Ms. DiSalvo has been doing with the administrators at City Hall and they were very impressed.

### **Maplewood Branch New Americans Librarian**

Ms. DiSalvo presented on the New Americans programming she facilitates at the Maplewood Branch. Mr. Gardner asked if she is working with Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services. She confirmed that she does work closely with this program. Mr. Karin asked about the success rate of patrons seeking citizenship. She stated that the last time she counted she had helped over 80 people achieve citizenship. She is currently working with the librarian who programs for the TSAC to develop classes. One goal is to bring the two groups together. Mr. Brandt asked if she keeps a journal about the people she helps and she agreed this is a great idea.

Ms. Drury left the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

### **Other Business**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 10:08 a.m.

*Dan Karin, Secretary*