



**Rochester
Public Library**

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Rochester Central Library, Kusler-Cox Auditorium
115 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14604
August 25, 2021
Minutes**

RPL Trustees Present: K. Baynes, D. Benjamin, G. Brandt, A. Drury, S. Futch, 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.; FFRPL liaisons, D. Borgus and S. Lusignan; staff members B. Harrison, M. Lewis, C. Ridarsky, A. Suro, A. Traub, P. Uttaro, D. Mansour

Call to Order

Ms. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., confirmed a quorum was present, and welcomed trustees, staff, and guests. She welcomed new trustee Shawn Futch and new Executive Director of FFRPL, Donna Borgus to their first RPL Board Meeting.

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 Ms. Salluzzo to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2021. THE MOTION PASSED with Ms. Drury ABSTAINING.

Personnel Changes

Ms. Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for the period June 7, 2021, to August 6, 2021, and reviewed the changes with trustees.

Mr. Lovenheim joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the library was having trouble hiring as is the case in many parts of the country. Ms. Suro responded that this is not the case and job openings have seen many candidates. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Ms. Baynes 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 July 2021. She reviewed the highlights with the trustees and reminded them to expect a year-end summary at the September meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim 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.

Acceptance of Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries

Ms. Lewis reviewed the highlights of the item with trustees and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Drury AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to accept \$3,069 from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tutoring Agreement for Maplewood Community Library

Ms. Lewis reviewed the highlights of the item with trustees and offered to answer any questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Lovenheim AND SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to approve an agreement with Melissa Parrish, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$11,426 through June 30, 2022. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NYSED Grant Approval, Lincoln Branch Library

Ms. Harrison reviewed the action item and answered questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Baynes AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve a grant application and acceptance of funds up to \$1,000,000 from the NYSED Division of Library Development for the construction project described. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Allocation of 2020-2021 Annual Campaign Proceeds

Ms. Harrison pointed out an error in the item wherein the amounts for “Funds for donor recognition event(s)” and “Gifts designated for special projects” were transposed. This error does not change the total amount. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve the proposed 2020 – 2021 annual campaign earnings allocation as described with the correction noted. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intellectual Property Consulting Agreement

Mr. Traub reviewed the action item. Ms. Harrison answered a question about the total spending for this agreement last year. The amount spent was \$3500. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Baynes AND SECONDED BY Ms. Benjamin to approve an agreement with the Tracy Jong Law Firm, PC, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$7,000 through June 30, 2022. THE MOTION PASSED with Mr. Lovenheim VOTING AGAINST.

ImagineYOU Audio Production Training Agreement

Mr. Traub reviewed the action item. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Brandt AND SECONDED BY Mr. Hamilton to approve an agreement with Wicked Squid Studios, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$8,000 through June 30, 2022. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL Code of Conduct Revision

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the action item. A proposal was made by Mr. Karin to amend the motion to include the prohibition of skateboards in item number 13 of the code of conduct. After some discussion, AN AMENDED MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Baynes AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to approve the recommended revision to the RPL Code of Conduct including a change to number 13 adding skateboards to the list of items prohibited in the library. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Memorandum of Understanding for Rochester History Journal Publication

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item. Ms. Ridarsky and Ms. Brennan answered several clarifying questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Drury AND SECONDED BY Ms. Salluzzo to approve the Memorandum of Understanding

between RIT and RPL for production planning for the Rochester History Journal. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Digitization Agreement with Family Search

Ms. Ridarsky reviewed the action item. Mr. Lovenheim raised an objection to doing business with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church) due to their practice of posthumous baptism, particularly as applied to those who died during the Holocaust. Other trustees raised concerns about patron privacy. Ms. Ridarsky explained that all information that would be digitized is already public information. After a discussion where several trustees voiced concerns about the motives of Family Search and the Mormon Church. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Brandt AND SECONDED BY Ms. Benjamin to approve a digitization agreement with Family Search for five years with automatic renewal for successive five-year periods. THE MOTION PASSED with Mr. Lovenheim and Ms. Baynes VOTING AGAINST and Mr. Hamilton ABSTAINING.

Committee Assignments

Ms. Benjamin reminded trustees to review the available committees and let her know which committees they were interested in serving.

Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)

Ms. Lusignan thanked everyone for helping to welcome Donna Borgus as the new Executive Director of FFRPL. She then reviewed the highlights of the written report and offered to answer any questions.

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

Ms. Uttaro reported that the MCLS Board accepted the Annual Report to New York State.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about her written report. Mr. Hamilton asked for more information about the Rundel Masonry Project and its timeline. Ms. Harrison responded that a timeline for a phased approach is being developed and she should have a more detailed report for trustees in October. Next, Ms. Uttaro reported that Assemblymember Sarah Clark met with her and Mr. Traub. She is looking for a library-related project to fund in her district which includes Winton, Lyell, Maplewood, and Charlotte. She then reminded trustees to register for the New York Library Association conference and submit any receipts to her for reimbursement. Lastly, she shared that she recently presented to the Monroe County Legislature's Recreation and Education Committee about the role of libraries in the community and the importance of keeping them fully funded.

Central Library

Mr. Traub offered to answer any questions about his written report. He reported that the Shipping Department processed a record number of totes of material in both June and July since record-keeping began in 2010.

Community Libraries

Ms. Lewis offered to answer any questions about her written report. She reported that the Summer of Opportunity students were an older group this year and they received a good deal of praise. She and Ms. Lee will be conducting exit interviews with these students and will try to recruit them to become staff at the library. She then reminded trustees they are welcome to join the anniversary celebration at the Phillis Wheatley library later in the day and the celebration of the completion of the Arnett Branch book spine mural scheduled for September 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Other Business

None

Executive Session

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Hamilton AND SECONDED BY Mr. Lovenheim to move into Executive Session to discuss financial and facility issues. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY at 10:08 a.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Mr. Gardner AND SECONDED BY Ms. Drury to move out of Executive Session. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY at 10:45 a.m.

Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Baynes AND SECONDED BY Ms. Drury to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dan Karin, Secretary