

New Haven Free Public Library
Library Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting
February 28, 2023

Virtual Members Present: Dr. Anderson, Alder Morrison, Ms. Sykes, Mr. Cruz, Ms. Lamar, Mr. Giering, Ms. Schneider, Ms. Logan

Members Absent: Ms. Merson

Staff Present: Maureen Sullivan, Luis Chavez-Brumell, Rory Martorana, and Regina Rush-Kittle

Welcome

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the January 2023 Minutes. Mr. Giering moved, Ms. Lamar seconded, and without any questions or comments, the Board voted to approve the Minutes and Consent Agenda.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Lamar presented the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Chavez-Brumell relayed feedback from Budget Director Gormany on budget questions from Ms. Lamar. As there was a desire for clarification Alder Morrison suggested that Mr. Chavez-Brumell invite Budget Director Gormany to a Board meeting so an explanation of where the Library fits in the city's budget can be better explained.

Director's Report

Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Chavez-Brumell delivered the Director's Report.

Mardi Gras 2023

Mr. Chavez-Brumell shared that Mardi Gras 2023 was a success. \$47,307.00 was raised with 160 tickets sold. These numbers were comparable to past Mardi Gras events. Mr. Chavez-Brumell added that the signature cocktail named after John Jessen will be available at Ordinary in the month of March with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Library.

Capital Budget/Budget Freeze

Mr. Chavez-Brumell shared that he and Ms. Sullivan attended the Capital Projects Committee meeting where they outlined the Library's capital budget needs to be included in the Mayor's proposed 2023-2024 budget proposal.

Strategic Framework/taskforces

Ms. Sullivan reported that work was underway with NHFPL staff task forces on collection development policy and practices, and how to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the Library.

Mayor's Proposed Budget

Ms. Sullivan reported on the meeting that she Dr. Anderson, and Mr. Giering, had with Ms. Rush-Kittle and Dr. Mehul Dalal (Community Services Administrator for the City of New Haven) to discuss the Mayor's Proposed

budget. Ms. Sullivan, Dr. Anderson, and Mr. Giering learned about the proposed shift of the Library from the Chief Administrative Office, reporting to CAO Rush-Kittle, to the Community Services Administration, reporting to Dr. Dalal. This shift would occur as of July 1st 2023 pending on budget approval. Ms. Sullivan expressed surprise in learning of the news the day before the Mayor's proposed budget was to be released and that there had been no consultation with the City Librarian or NHFPL Board of Directors. Ms. Sullivan plans to meet with Dr. Dalal to discuss her concerns about the shift with him.

Meeting room/tutor room policy proposal

Mr. Chavez-Brumell presented the updated meeting room and tutor room policy. Ms. Martorana spoke on the need for the tutor room policy as tutor room usage is different than general meeting room usage. The Board will review these policies at the March Board meeting.

City Librarian Search update

The brochure from search consultants will be finalized soon with the goal of opening the position in early March with a closing date of April 2nd. The goal is to have finalists visit New Haven on May 5th and 6th.

Board member terms and nominations

Ms. Logan shared that she will need to resign from the Board given the number of commitments she has. She has expressed appreciation for the opportunity. Dr. Anderson thanked Ms. Logan for her service and asked board members to volunteer to serve on a nominating subcommittee to identify a new board member. Dr. Anderson has spoken with Liaison to the Board of Alders, Barbara Montalvo to review the list of those who have expressed interest in serving on the New Haven Free Public Library Board. Mr. Giering and Ms. Schneider will serve as the nominating subcommittee and review potential board members to present to the Board.

City Librarian Portrait

Dr. Anderson reported that local artist Frank Bruckmann is making progress on the portrait of late City Librarian John Jessen. There is a plan to have a portrait unveiling celebration when the portrait is completed.

Public Comment

Alder Morrison shared information about the *Tell Them We Are Rising* documentary film screenings in partnership with the Black and Hispanic Caucus of the New Haven at Library locations in the month of March as part of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) awareness month

Dr. Anderson reported that board members should plan to attend upcoming budget season meetings and workshops to advocate for the Library on issues relating to services and salaries. Dr. Anderson will share budget workshop and talking point information when it is available.

Dr. Anderson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Schneider so moved, Ms. Lamar seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Luis Chavez-Brumell
Deputy Director