

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING  
LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
January 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lexington Public Library was held in the Board Room of the Central Library on Wednesday, January 10, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. Ralph Coldiron, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Board members present: Rania Belmadani, Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Ralph Coldiron, Stephanie Nallia, and Yajaira West. Advisory Board members present: Elizabeth Adams, Craig Cammack, Alex Garcia, Shawntaye Hopkins, Louetta Hurst, Hunter Porter, and Daryl Privott

Library staff present: AnnaMarie Cornett, Chief of Staff; Anne Donworth, Director of Development, Marketing, and Communications; Heather Dieffenbach, Executive Director; Tonya Head, Deputy Director; Rob Serrate, Finance Officer; Elizabeth Neher, Development Associate; Christopher Oakford, Executive Assistant; Rob Parmley, Director of Operations; Summer Russell, Data Analyst; and Paige Smith, Development Manager

Others present: Rod Brotherton, Friends of the Library; Megan George, Stites and Harbison

Mr. Coldiron called the meeting to order.

Mr. Coldiron moved for approval of the minutes from the December 13, 2023 Board meeting. Ms. West seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Donworth gave the Development report. In December, the Foundation received a total of \$73,679.92 from 124 donors, while in the calendar year 2023 the Foundation received 849 gifts from 513 separate donors totaling \$1.5 million. The Foundation also received a platinum seal of approval for its financial transparency from GuideStar, meaning its financial oversight was very strong. Ms. Donworth concluded her report by informing those present that Kentucky's General Assembly was in session and that the Library was closely monitoring the budget and any potential legislation that might affect public libraries.

Mr. Brotherton gave the Friends report. The Book Cellar reopened on January 6, after being closed for renovations over the holidays. (The renovations effectively doubled the Book Cellar floor space.) Over 400 customers visited and sales totaled \$2,500. In December, the Friends sold 100 books online and donated 100 magazines and other materials to the STEAM Academy. Mr. Brotherton also mentioned that the Friends were instituting a new point-of-sale system, and that they would participate in

another *Books and Brews* event on March 17 at the Old North Bar. He ended his report by encouraging everyone present to visit the store.

Mr. Serrate gave the financial statement. As of the end of November, the Library had total assets of \$22,009,200 and total liabilities of \$2,008,700, leaving a fund balance of \$20,000,600. General Fund revenues were \$1,750,200 and expenditures were \$1,560,800. In the Materials Fund, revenues, year-to-date, were \$1,135,100 and expenditures were \$1,461,700. Investments totaled \$13,152,100 and debt totaled \$14,329,800.

Following Mr. Serrate's report, Mr. Coldiron asked for a motion for the Board to approve the financial statement. Ms. Bird-Pollan proposed and Ms. Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dieffenbach presented the Director's report. She informed those present of the planned renovations to Phoenix Park, which the Library had advocated for several years. She also encouraged everyone present to visit the new tween space on the fourth floor at Central, and she thanked all LPL staff who helped create it. Ms. Dieffenbach ended her report by informing the Board that in 2023 the Library's digital checkouts exceeded one million for the first time.

Mr. Coldiron presented the Chair's report. He confirmed the date of the next meeting as February 14, 2024 and the location as the Central Library.

The Building and Property Committee did not meet in January.

Ms. Dieffenbach presented the Board Development report, as Ms. Hockenberry was unable to join the meeting. The committee met on Tuesday, January 9, to discuss applications for the vacancy on the Advisory Board. The Office of the Mayor received 12 applications for the vacancy. The committee decided to interview three applicants whose skills and experience they felt would best fill gaps in the board's ability to reflect all aspects of the community. The interviews would take place over the next two weeks.

Ms. Nallia presented the Budget and Finance Committee Report. She confirmed that she and Ms. Bebrowsky had reviewed the checks and procurement card statements for December with no questions or issues.

There were two items of other business. First, Ms. Nallia suggested that the February meeting should include a visit to the Book Cellar, so the members could see the renovations. Second, Mr. Coldiron asked Mr. Parmley for an update on progress on the Marksbury Family Branch. Mr. Parmley confirmed that everything was now on course for the grand opening on Saturday, March 9.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Yajaira West, Secretary