

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

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lexington Public Library was held in Community Room A and B of the Marksbury Family Branch Library on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Ralph Coldiron, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Board members present: Lynda Bebrowsky, Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Ralph Coldiron, Casandra Hockenberry, and Yajaira West. Advisory Board members present: Elizabeth Adams, DeLaine Bender, Craig Cammack, Melissa Coulston, Alex Garcia, Shawntaye Hopkins, Louetta Hurst, Wendi Keene, Hunter Porter, and Daryl Privott

Library staff present: Heather Dieffenbach, Executive Director; Tonya Head, Deputy Director; Kate Baughman, Marketing Manager; AnnaMarie Cornett, Chief of Staff; Elizabeth Neher, Development Associate; Christopher Oakford, Executive Assistant; Rob Parmley, Director of Operations; Summer Russell, Data Analyst; Rob Serrate, Finance Officer; Jenny Smith, Manager, Marksbury Family Branch; Paige Smith, Acting Director of Development; and Clarissa Thomas, Director of Education

Others present: Rod Brotherton, Friends of the Library; Megan George, Stites and Harbison; Jeff Gurnee, KDLA; Paula Sevigny

Mr. Coldiron called the meeting to order.

Mr. Coldiron moved for approval of the minutes from the March 13, 2024 Board meeting. Ms. Hockenberry seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Smith gave the Development report. In March, the Foundation received a total of \$127,773 from 57 donors, the majority of which was for the Marksbury Family Branch, including the final pledge payment from Tempur Sealy. At the previous month's Foundation board meeting the Foundation board approved a new slate of officers and reviewed new bylaws. Ms. Smith indicated that there were two remaining vacancies on the Foundation board, and she asked for nominations to be sent to Mr. Coldiron, the chair of the nominating committee. Ms. Smith also mentioned that the peer-to-peer fundraising campaign, which was scheduled to run from April 3, 2024 until April 30, 2024, as part of Library Giving Month, had raised over \$4,000 to date, and that the goal was to raise \$15,000.

Mr. Brotherton gave the Friends report. The Friends' March sale raised \$10,700, with 58 new and renewed memberships, bringing the total number of annual and lifetime members to 832, up from 500 in 2023. Mr. Brotherton explained that the Friends were continuing to target offsite and online sales, as well as using the physical store in

the basement, as part of their efforts to increase turnover. There were several *Books & Brews* events planned for later in 2024, and Mr. Brotherton and Mr. Boes had recently visited Blount County, Tennessee, to look at how that county's library system's Friends were generating significant additional income through sales on Amazon and eBay.

Mr. Serrate gave the financial statement. As of the end of February, the Library had total assets of \$22,165,200 and total liabilities of \$2,208,600, leaving a fund balance of \$19,956,700. General Fund revenues were \$1,585,200 and expenditures were \$1,765,600 and year-to-date \$12,859,400 and \$12,330,100 respectively. In the Materials Fund, revenues, year-to-date, were \$1,816,200 and expenditures were \$2,176,800. Investments totaled \$13,578,000 and debt totaled \$12,469,800, with the parking garage debt now paid off in full.

At this point, Ms. Bebrowsky joined the meeting.

The Library's legal counsel, Ms. George, then talked about the Public Library Corporation. (Earlier in 2024, Lexington Public Library and the Board of Trustees were informed by the City of Lexington that approximately \$800,000 had been found in an old account, connected to the building of the Tates Creek Branch, and that the Library was owed \$600,000 of it. In order for the Library to access the money the Public Library Corporation needed to reconvene, after many years in abeyance, and as so much time had elapsed the Lexington Public Library Board of Trustees had to nominate two current board members to the Corporation. The board nominated Ms. Bebrowsky and Mr. Coldiron.) Ms. George informed the board that the next steps were for her to: 1.) inform the City of those nominations; 2.) inform the City that the board had no objection in principle to there being four rather than five members of the Corporation (two from the City and two from the Board of Trustees); 3.) request that the City set a date for the Public Library Corporation to meet.

Ms. Dieffenbach presented the Director's report. She began by showing the attendees a thank you card she had received from the family of Mr. Joseph Hayse. Mr. Hayse, who died in March 2024, was the library patron who filed a lawsuit to force the City to pay Lexington Public Library five cents in every \$100 of property tax, as required by law. At the request of the family, Ms. Dieffenbach asked Mr. Larry Smith to speak at Mr. Hayse's funeral. Next, Ms. Dieffenbach provided the board with an update on the Marksbury Family Branch. In the three weeks following the opening, customers had checked out over 9,000 items, and the branch's circulation statistics were the highest in it and the Village Branch's combined history. In addition, Ms. Dieffenbach had received a huge amount of positive feedback about the opening. Ms. Dieffenbach concluded her report by drawing the board's attention to the Library's participation at the KPLA conference in Owensboro. In particular, she thanked Elizabeth Neher for her presentation and the Library's Teen Librarians for their "Pride and Programming" presentation. She also congratulated Jennie Sammons for being honored with the

Outstanding Young Adult Services Award. Ms. Sammons was nominated by Amanda Hurley at Henry Clay High School, who highlighted her monthly DIY art workshop in which students with moderate-to-severe disabilities worked alongside regular education students to produce artworks together.

Mr. Coldiron presented the Chair's report. He confirmed the date of the next meeting as May 8, 2024, and the location as the Central Library. He then read the oath of office and asked the two new Advisory Board members, Ms. Coulston and Ms. Keene, to confirm they agreed to abide by the oath. Both agreed and were duly sworn in.

Neither the Building and Property Committee nor the Board Development Committee met in April.

Ms. Bird-Pollan presented the Budget and Finance Committee report, in Ms. Nallia's absence. On behalf of the committee she brought forward a motion for the board to approve the financial statement as presented by Mr. Serrate earlier in the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Hockenberry and passed unanimously. Ms. Bird-Pollan also confirmed that Ms. Bebrowsky and Ms. Nallia had reviewed the checks and procurement card statements for April with no questions or issues.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Yajaira West, Secretary