

**SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2013**

**In Attendance:**

Trustees: Anil Gullapalli, Jack Hamilton, Mark Howland, Laura Saunders, Josh Solomon, Akil Williams  
Library Director: Maria Carpenter

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.

**Minutes:**

*Laura Saunders moved to accept the November minutes. Josh Solomon seconded. The November minutes were unanimously approved.*

**Director's Report:**

- New shelving for the AV collection is being installed in Wellington Hall. New lounge seating will follow.
- The director met with the new Director of Capital Planning, Skip Bandini, who reported that engaging design consultants for the East and West Branch Renovation is a high priority. The new library building projects staff person will be Eddie Nuzzo.
- The new youth services librarian Cynthia Mitchem, along with Head of Teen Services Ron Castile, has enabled the library to provide greater young adult programming. Recent programs on gaming and Anime have attracted up to 80 attendees. This afternoon the Director attended an activity in which young women were creating teen empowerment buttons.
- Kevin O'Kelly wrote a successful application for a Muslim Journeys Bookshelf grant which is funded through the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Kevin O'Kelly has been instrumental in the digitization of historical city documents. These records are now available through the Internet Archive through a partnership with the Boston Public Library and Digital Commonwealth.
- The library is developing an RFP for the redesign of the library website. Goals include growing the library brand through increased visibility and reputation building, creating clearer organization to improve awareness of programs and data, enhancing search capabilities and reducing the siloing of information, allowing for modular design to facilitate updating of content, and improved mobile access. The library hopes to build on partnerships with local institutions and possible internships to facilitate the process.
- The library card campaign is providing opportunities for the staff to work in committees, to participate in meaningful outreach, and take new risks.
- Work is beginning on developing a new strategic plan for the library
- The Director is working with Harvard and a Software Developer to create an "Awesome" book program in which readers can rate books as awesome online. The featured books will have links for show book jackets. Display carts will feature the "Awesome" books.

**President's Report:**

A process leading to the election of Board officers will begin at next month's meeting.

**New Business:**

- *Josh Solomon moved "That the Board of Trustees supports the creation of an associate director for the library in order to allow the director more opportunities to pursue external relations, fund raising, long term planning, and program development. Laura Saunders seconded. The Motion was unanimously adopted.*
- The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 6 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Mark Howland, Secretary Pro Tem