

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, Oct. 9, 2024

Minutes

ATTENDING

TRUSTEES: Kate Van Sleet, April Kuehnhoff, Mark Sternman, Janaki Perera, Carla Lillvik, Anandavalli Thiagarajan, Ami Feldman

ABSENT: Mike Smith

GUESTS: Sarah Pascarella

DIRECTOR: Cathy Piantigini

CALL TO ORDER

President Van Sleet called the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 pm.

MINUTES

Mark Sternman motioned to approve the minutes from September. Carla Lillvik seconded and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Bomb threat led to cancellation of a children's drag queen story hour event on October 5. The performer, all library patrons, and library staff were safely evacuated from the building. Protesters and counter-protesters moved across the street while police secured the building. The next day the library received an email claiming that there was a shooter on the roof of the library.
2. Director is regularly checking in with staff about their well being after the bomb threat and a hoax email about the shooter being on the roof.
3. Police are actively investigating the bomb threat and hoax email about a shooter being on the roof.
4. Library is still receiving negative comments about some social media posts. Library social media policy is in place and posted online.
5. Security guard is now present from 2-6 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and 11-3 on Wednesdays. Has a good rapport so far with teenagers. Security guard is being paid for by library state aid.
6. Prior to security guard starting teenagers were involved in harassing library patrons. Police were called and a patron gave a statement to the police. No trespass letters were issued to 4 teens.
7. On October 4th, a program provider in front of the library was harassed by teens. Incident was captured on a security camera. Provider planned to report this to Next Wave / Full Circle after recognizing some of the teens from a previous program there.
8. Director anticipates that the social worker will start in a few weeks.

9. Somerville Public Library Foundation is hiring a planner to help with the strategic plan. The process for developing the strategic plan will restart in January and will hold focus groups in the spring.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Friends of the Somerville Public Library have a Flatbread fundraiser coming up in November and then a community pint night and books sale in December.
2. Participatory budgeting ideas are being accepted by the City of Somerville through November 20th.

COMMITTEES

1. Communications Committee - Mark Sternman will draft the next newsletter.
2. Archive Committee - Carla Lillvik will upload scanned documents.
3. Trustee Vacancy Committee - The President will connect with the committee to take the next step to fill the Trustee vacancy.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objection, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be held in November 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The open meeting will take place in the Director's Office at the Central Branch Library.

April Kuehnhoff, Secretary