

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, March 12, 2025

Minutes

ATTENDING

TRUSTEES: Kate Van Sleet, April Kuehnhoff, Mark Sternman, Janaki Perera, Ami Feldman, Sarah Pascarella, Mike Smith, Carla Lillvik

ABSENT: Anandavalli Thiagarajan,

GUEST: Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Peter W.

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

Carla Lillvik motioned to approve the minutes from February. Ami Feldman seconded and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Four current vacancies in the library.
2. New water fountain at Central Library.
3. Custodians have been replacing some of the ceiling tiles that have been falling.
4. Main elevator at Central has been out of service for about a week and will be out of repair for another couple of weeks for a significant repair requiring a part that needed to be ordered. It will probably be at least 4 weeks until this is repaired. Trying to redirect people to other branches if they need accessible facilities.
5. Drag Queen Storytime planning happened today. Invited a broad group of participants from different City departments.
6. City Health and Human Services was planning to host a name change clinic at the Central library. That event moved online.
7. Rules of Conduct went to the Law Department, which provided some feedback. Want to focus on the tone to make it user friendly and welcoming but also be clear about what the consequences are for violating the policy. Reached out to a consultant and will get back to the library with a proposal.
8. Issued a no trespass notice today to an adult for lewd conduct at the Central Branch Library. West Branch Library had previously issued a no trespass notice to the same individual for lewd conduct. Put all library staff on notice.
9. Safety committee subcommittees will be focusing on setting goals for the end of the year.

10. Teen situation has been better. Security company has been having trouble staffing the security guard position with the same person due to the limited hours and pay. Raised the pay at the start of the year but still having trouble getting a consistent person for the job given the limited hours.
11. Social worker is hoping to host some interns in the fall and is starting that process now.
12. Director met with the consultant for the strategic plan and expects a work proposal by the end of next week.
13. Director went to a meeting about the new trustee reappointment process and was able to give feedback but there were no changes announced to the process.
14. The Somerville Public Library will have a table at Civic Day on April 5th.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. The Foundation will be looking for a buyer for the remaining property.
2. The Friends of the Public Library will be at the Bow Market Book Fair on March 22 and the next book sale will be May 10th and 11th. Pub night will be June 26th.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS

1. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne spoke about the City budget process.

COMMITTEES

1. Communications Committee - Janaki Perera will circulate a draft soon.
2. Nominating Committee - Anandavalli Thiagarajan and Ami Feldman put forth a list of proposed candidates last month. Mark Sternman moved to approve the slate of candidates, Carla Lillvik seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objection, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be held on April 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The open meeting will take place in the Director's Office at the Central Branch Library.

April Kuehnhoff, Secretary