

## **SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, May 14, 2025**

#### *Minutes*

#### **ATTENDING**

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

ABSENT: Janaki Perera

DIRECTOR: Cathy Piantigini

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Van Sleet called the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:02 pm.

#### **MINUTES**

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

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. The City is trying to balance the budget. Director asked to prepare a budget with a 3% reduction. This might include reductions to borrowing limits on Hoopla. The library's proposed budget will include the security guard but not the social worker position, which is currently funded by state aid to the library. The library's proposed budget funds the security guard, but not the social worker position, for which the library instead must use state aid. The Mayor will present the proposed budget to the City Council on May 29th. There will be a public hearing on June 3.
2. Hiring to fill positions at the East Branch is ongoing.
3. The social worker has hired two interns for the fall.
4. Drag Queen Storytime planning is continuing.
5. No update about the elevator repairs. The Department of Public Works says that they are waiting for a part.
6. Last week teens being bullied by other teens outside the library sought shelter in the library. Police were called and bullied teens were escorted to get home safely. That same day one of the teens threatened to shoot the security guard and made a violent physical gesture toward a library staff member that stepped outside to help. In a separate incident last week, teens harassed a father and his young son. Director followed-up with the Mayor's office.
7. City is moving forward with installing secure needle collection boxes near the East and West Branches.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. Great Barrington Public Library Trustees visited the West Branch to plan their renovation of an identical library.

2. The Foundation did a fundraising appeal. They are considering hiring a consultant for a fundraising campaign.
3. The City is hosting a series of Slice of the City events.
4. The Friends of the Public Library will have the next book sale June 6-8th. Pint night will be June 26th.

## **COMMITTEES**

1. Communications Committee - Janaki Perera circulated a draft newsletter. She will finalize and mail it to the City Councilors.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and no objection, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be held on June 11, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The open meeting will take place in the Director's Office at the Central Branch Library.

April Kuehnhoff, Secretary