

PCL's February 22, 2021 Board meeting
Called to order at 6:03 pm by Patricia Raub, Board President

Full Board Roster:

Tony Aguilar, Anita Bench, Kendra Brewster, Avital R. Chatto, Joan Dagle, Jordan Day, Deborah Del Gais, Andre Herrera, Caleb Horton, Jean Lamb, Rochelle Lee, Sarah Morenon, Tim Moroz, Joseph Morra, V. Raffini, Paige Raposa, Patricia Raub, Adriana Vargas, Pam Vogel, Zachary Weinberger, Cyndie Wilmot, Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge

Current Board composition = 22 members

Members Present:

Tony Aguilar, Kendra Brewster, Joan Dagle, Jordan Day, Deborah Del Gais, Caleb Horton, Rochelle Lee, Sarah Morenon, Tim Moroz, Joseph Morra, V. Raffini, Paige Raposa, Patricia Raub, Adriana Vargas, Pam Vogel, Zachary Weinberger, Cyndie Wilmot, Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge

Total 16 members present

*Joseph Morra joined the meeting after roll call

Members Absent:

Anita Bench, Caleb Horton, Jean Lamb, V. Raffini, Paige Raposa, Adriana Vargas

Total 6 members absent

PCL Staff Present: Michael Bordonaro, Sue Gibbs, Sara Huber and Cheryl Space

Guest staff: Michelle Novello

Meeting Guests: Linda Kushner, Mark McKinney, Marcus Mitchell
(two PCL incorporators & two past Board presidents)

Michelle Novello's Tribute Ceremony

Patricia Raub announced that Michelle Novello, PCL's outstanding Program Director is leaving PCL to pursue other opportunities. Patricia introduced guest speakers attending Michelle's tribute ceremony. Each was invited to speak about how successful Michelle was in developing and expanding PCL's library programs, community partnerships, promoting PCL's influence and neighborhood impact.

Many words of appreciation followed including stories and accolades from former Board officers. The reading of several citations included:

- Andre Herrera read a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from Congressman David Cicilline, 1st Congressional District

- Jordan Day read a Resolution of Recognition from Mayor Jorge Elorza, City of Providence

Guests attending Michelle's Board tribute offering words of thanks:

- Marcus Mitchell, first PCL Board president, spoke of Michelle's many contributions to PCL's early success which continues to this day of Michelle's recognition
- Linda Kushner, PCL's founding Board Secretary, spoke of Michelle's innovation, inspired approach and thanked her for dedication and success in creating bold and strategically important library programs.
- Mark McKinney, PCL second Board President, spoke about how Michelle's energy and ideas helped to lead PCL to pursue new and important resources and PCL programs that are rooted in neighborhoods and their needs.
- Patricia Raub, incorporator and current Board President, thanked Michelle on behalf of the Board, herself and our library community. Patricia read parts of PCL's Certificate of Recognition highlighting Michelle's talent, hard work, her broad impact on PCL's success and high regard. Patricia also thanked Tony Aguilar, Deb Del Gais and Linda Kushner for helping Patricia write the words described in Michelle's Certificate of Appreciation.

Michelle Novello spoke and thanked everyone for their support and collaboration throughout her twelve years with PCL. Michelle talked about how honored and proud she is of her work at PCL. She shared stories about her experiences and expressed her gratitude for the friendships formed, her professional growth and for being encouraged by colleagues to pursue her program ideas and vision.

Michelle thanked PCL staff, past Board members, Linda, Marcus and Mark as well as Ellen Schwartz for their support and trust. Michelle expressed ways that her 90 yr old mother, watching from California, continues to inspire her work and aspirations.

Approval of January 2021 Board Minutes:

Patricia Raub asked if there were any comments, questions or corrections to the January 2021 Board minutes. Discussion followed. No changes were discussed.

Motion to Approve January 2021 Board Minutes:

Patricia Raub called for a vote to approve the Board's January 2021 Minutes, (no corrections). Motion to approve was made by Pam Vogel and Jordan Day seconded the motion.

VOTE on MOTION

Yes 15 No 0 Abstained 1 Unable to Vote 0 Total Votes 16
_____ (A. Herrera)

Board President's Report:

Patricia Raub asked for a volunteer to take minutes at PCL's March 2021 Board meeting because Rochelle Lee, Board Secretary will not be present. Tony Aguilar volunteered.

Patricia spoke about Congressional bill, S-127, *Build America's Libraries*, proposed by Senator Jack Reed. Deb Del Gais suggested PCL send a thank you letter to Senator Reed for sponsoring this legislation to strengthen library services and facilities. Patricia encouraged everyone to send letters of support through the link Deb sent to members.

Patricia announced the Director's Review Committee was formed. Members include Avital Chatto, Committee Chair and board members, Kendra Brewster, Zachary Weinberger, V. Raffini and Sarah Morenon. The Committee will start next month and work through June 2021. The format the Committee will follow is still being determined.

Executive Director's Report:

In addition to information provided in the Director's Report, Cheryl Space thanked everyone for their tributes to Michelle as she leaves PCL. Cheryl then expressed how deeply felt staff appreciation for Michelle's dedication, accomplishments, leadership and friendships she has with PCL staff and volunteers.

Cheryl gave an update on her meeting in December with Executive Committee members to update PCL's Strategic Plan. The plan will cover the period from December 2020-June 2022. It will be mailed

Cheryl described that PCL's partnership with House of Hope Peer supporters pilot starts in March at Smith Hill, South Providence, Knight Memorial and Wansuck. Peer supporters will be at each library for 8-10 hours per week

Board discussion followed.

Approval of January 31, 2021 Board Finance Report:

Pam Vogel, Finance Committee Chair, summarized general information from the period ending January 31, 2021 Board Finance Report. Generally, there were no concerns regarding PCL's financial report and fiscal operations.

Pam also mentioned a few highlights in the January Finance report: maintenance costs due to Covid cleaning was explained and Pam stated that progress to convert PCL's Paycheck Protection Program loan to a grant is ontrack.

Board discussion of Board Finance Report followed. Jordan Day reported she was not aware of any news on the City's final award to PCL.

Motion to Approve February 2021 Board Finance Committee Report:

Patricia Raub called for a vote to approve the Board's period ending January 31, 2021 Finance Committee Report, (no corrections).

Motion to approve was made by Pam Vogel and Jordan Day seconded the motion.

VOTE on MOTION

Yes 16 No 0 . Abstained 0 Unable to Vote 0 . Total Votes 16

Board February 2021 Fund Development Report:

Michael Bordonaro gave an update on PCL's fund development activities, most of which is included in his January Board Report.

Highlights of his comments include:

- Towering Stories (Over the Edge) - the Fund Development Committee and Over Edge Global recommend that PCL's event be rescheduled to late summer/early fall due to the pandemic. Available dates for the event are being considered. Michael will keep everyone updated.
- Jeeper's Keepers - raffle books are for sale. Max of 2,000 tickets are available. Drawing is on July 1st and current tickets sales are going well. PCL staff, Board members and online ticket sales are picking up. (499 tickets are already in circulation). Michael discussed ways to promote and sell tickets to achieve the Jeeper's Keepers fundraising goal.

Discussion followed with questions and comments from Tony Aguilar, (will postponing the Tower Stories event impact PCL's current budget?)

Michael clarified who qualifies for the raffle drawing, (the winner must be able to get auto insurance and can live anywhere)

Patricia asked members to let staff and members know about outdoor venues coming up that would be safe PCL can sell raffle tickets, (e.g. farmer's markets).

Michael reminded people to use social media to promote the raffle. All questions or suggestions for Michael are welcomed. He is preparing more promotional activities.

- Update on PCL's 2020 Fall Appeal - currently PCL is only \$4,278 away from reaching PCL's goal of \$100k. To date, PCL has received 538 gifts vs 277 gifts, this time in 2020.

PCL's 2021 Spring Appeal - will focus on summer reading and student engagement

Board February Facilities Committee Report:

Deb Del Gais discussed two documents in the Facilities Report in February's Board package. The Committee Report includes a Capital Improvement Plan which covers basic building upgrades (phase I) and a large scale renovation program at Knight Memorial, (phase II). The proposed

Capital Improvement plan covers a period of 10 years. To date, PCL has invested over \$7 million dollars in upgrades to PCL's most at-risk buildings. However, a whole lot more money is needed to continue making progress towards ensuring every library is in proper physical condition.

Other topics Deb discussed from February's Facilities Report:

- Create a capital improvement plan for each building; create a budget line item for unforeseen, expensive building repairs.
- Hire a Facilities Director to enable Sue Gibbs to delegate those functions to a person dedicated to overseeing PCL's buildings and renovations.
- Secure a space to consolidate administrative, maintenance and a maintenance workshop, ideally within a PCL library or nearby location. Deb discussed ways to approach meeting PCL's space needs from exploring properties with seller financing to partnering with an interested developer.

Sue reminded members to keep an eye out for locations where public funds and tax benefits to the developer might make PCL an attractive partner but not diminish PCL's history as a neighborhood based library system.

Discussion with board members, Deb Del Gais, Cheryl Space and Sue Gibbs followed. Comments from Zachary Weinberger, Jordan Day and Joseph Morra centered on PCL's plans for Fox Point, Knight Memorial, Olneyville and Washington Park library buildings.

Discussion and Questions Regarding Other Reports in February's Board Package:

Board Governance Committee Report: No comments.

Advocacy and Marketing Report: No comments.

Public Comments and Announcements:

None

Motion to Adjourn:

Tony Aguilar motioned to adjourn the Board meeting; Jordan Day seconded the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Vote on the motion to adjourn was unanimous. Patricia Raub, Board President adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.