

Providence Community Library  
Board of Directors Minutes  
July 17, 2017  
Rochambeau Library

Welcome and Call to Order

President Cyndie Wilmot called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.  
Secretary Joan Dagle took the roll call, noting that 10 trustees were present constituting a quorum.

Present: Tony Aguilar, Joan Dagle, Deborah Del Gais, Robert Lin, Patricia Raub, Deborah Schimberg, Ellen Schwartz, Pam Vogel, Cyndie Wilmot, Ken Wise. Avital Chatto, Grace Diaz, Judanne Hamidzada, Matthew Lawrence, Mark McKenney arrived after the roll, making a quorum of 15.

Absent: Elena Chiaradio, Althea Graves, Christine Kue, Rochelle Lee.

Minutes: P. Vogel moved that the board minutes from June 19 be accepted as recorded with the following correction from D. Del Gais: in the first item of the Director's Report, "engineering assessment" should be "architectural assessment." R. Lin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report and Discussion: Potential Talks with PPL

C. Wilmot thanked Robert Lin for his service to the board and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. The board wishes Robert good luck at Yale!

Potential talks with PPL regarding affiliation opportunities:C

. Wilmot explained that she had been approached by D. Schimberg who asked if she would meet with the PPL board chair as a way of opening a dialogue on the idea of one system. C. Wilmot responded that she would bring the idea of a meeting up for the board to discuss. She then opened the floor for discussion, asking D. Schimberg to speak first. D. Schimberg stated she was suggesting that we should "step back from the past" and that one system with ten libraries makes sense for the City from her point of view. T. Aguilar questioned the timing; E. Schwartz stated it was a bad idea and she didn't want to do it; P. Vogel noted that a PPL/PCL merger would be "hard to explain." M. McKenney stated that even looking toward the future, there is no evidence that PPL has any interest in neighborhoods, and although he is always happy to talk to anyone, in this case it seems PCL would be going "hat in hand" and he didn't know what we would gain by doing that. P. Raub stated that she was open to the idea of talking, but that we need a strategic plan. A. Chat spoke about another organization in a similar situation and noted that it took a very long time to work things out; she stated that we need to work through a strategic plan first and—most importantly—we need to know what we are about. C. Wilmot gave the final word to

D. Schimberg who said, “Let’s think about what we would like to see.”

#### Director’s Report

Jeffrey Cannell reported on the “Over the Edge” development event. P. Vogel reported on one held in Boston this past week and J. Cannell will attend one in Hartford next week.

#### Vote to amend the order of the agenda: Governance Committee Report

Vote to consider the Governance Committee Report next: unanimous.

P. Raub reported that all of the nine community meetings for the strategic plan have been scheduled; she asked the board to encourage neighbors, friends, businesses, and community people to attend. She also asked for additional volunteers and notetakers. G. Diaz noted that her office was helping and would continue to help with this outreach; however, she informed the board that she was leaving the community relations office and taking a new position with the City. The board thanked Grace (with a lively round of applause!) for her service as the mayoral staff representative. [At this point, G. Diaz left the meeting.]

#### Finance Committee Report

E. Schwartz explained the “development/accounting reconciliation” sheet she drew up (with help from Linda Kushner) in response to a request at the last board meeting.

E.. Schwartz presented the Income statement ending June 30, 2017, explaining that it was a preliminary statement only. A. Chatto moved to accept the 6/30/2107 statement. P. Vogel seconded the motion. Vote:

Unanimous.

FY 18 budget: approved by the Finance Committee to go to the board. J. Cannell explained areas of increase/decrease with respect to last year’s budget. D. Schimberg asked that money be added for strategic planning. D. Schimberg then raised the issue of fire safety concerns at Knight Memorial Library. D. Del Gais noted that it would be discussed at the August 7 Facilities Committee meeting. Several board members asked for information on just what the concern is and what needed to be done to address it. After hearing about the seriousness of the safety issues, M. McKenney stated that we should advise the Mayor’s office that we might need to close KML if at least temporary solutions were not put in place immediately. A. Chatto emphasized that we need to have a conversation with the City. M. McKenney and A. Chatto stressed that we need to take care of this immediately: we need to call in the fire marshall and go to the City. Discussion of how to proceed followed, with some members of the board arguing for immediate closure of KML and others arguing for a meeting with the Mayor before taking action.

Because of the seriousness of the fire safety concerns, the board took an **emergency vote on the following motion:** M. McKenney moved, and A. Chatto seconded, that: The PCL board authorizes J. Cannell to put the City on notice that there are serious safety concerns regarding KML that the board has just become aware of, and that if there is no plan for mitigating these concerns by Friday, we will have to shut KML until further notice. Vote to approve: Aguilar; Chatto; Dagle; Del Gais; Hamidzada; Lin;

McKenney; Raub; Schimberg; Schwartz; Wilmot; Wise. Abstaining: Lawrence; Vogel. 12-2.

Vote on FY 18 budget: P. Vogel moved to accept the budget; P. Raub seconded the motion. Vote to approve: Aguilar; Chatto; Dagle; Del Gais; Hamidzada ; Lin; McKenney; Raub; Schwartz; Vogel; Wilmot. Opposed: D. Schimberg; Abstaining: M. Lawrence, K. Wise. 10-1-2.

#### Development Report

M. Lawrence announced the November mini-golf fundraiser and noted that we will need sponsors.

#### Facilities Report

As submitted.

#### Public Comment

Karen Mcaninch spoke to the lack of money in the FY 18 budget for salary increases. Deb Furia spoke to staff concerns regarding restructuring and attrition. Janet Fuentes reflected on the evening's difficult discussion and emergency vote, and she reminded us all that we need to be aware of communication issues as this moves forward.

#### Adjournment

P

. Raub moved to adjourn the meeting. E. Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully

submitted,

Joan Dagle  
Secretary