

Providence Community Library  
Board of Directors Minutes  
July 20, 2015  
South Providence Library

1. Welcome and Call to Order

President Mark McKenney called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Secretary Joan Dagle took the roll call of the board members, noting that 14 trustees were present making a quorum.

Present: Avital Chatto, Joan Dagle, Deborah Del Gais, Margaret Gardner, Althea Graves, Alan Gunther, Matthew Lawrence, Rochelle Lee, Mark McKenney, Bianca Rodriquez, Deborah Schimberg, Ellen Schwartz, Cyndie Wilmot, and Ken Wise.

Absent: Christian Caldarone, Elena Chiaradio, Grace Diaz, Adilson Furtado, Silaphone Nhongvongsouthy, and Patricia Raub.

2. Minutes: Corrections: In item #7, \$18,00 should be \$18,000; in item #9, the last sentence should read "The EC suggested moving the October meeting to Smith Hill." A. Gunther moved that the board minutes from June 15 be accepted as corrected. C. Wilmot Lee the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
3. M. Lawrence moved that the order of the agenda be changed; C. Wilmot seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. StoryCorps presentation by David Sok and Leah Lubman highlighted segments featuring Valerie Tutson and David Cicilline and earned an enthusiastic round of applause.
5. Report of the Executive Committee  
-D. Del Gais reported that at its July meeting, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend going forward with the transfer of the Arnold Archive to PPL.
6. Director's Report: L. Marlane  
-As submitted.
7. Program Coordinator's Report: M. Novello  
-M. Novello noted that the report highlights dates and grant money that programs have brought in.
8. Finance Report: E. Schwartz  
-Preliminary income statement ending June 30, 2015 accepted as submitted.

9. Development Report: S. Kumins

-S. Kumins noted that the report breaks down funds categories for the year. The biggest concern is the “Government” category since the RIDOT and RI Health Center funds will dry up.

-M. Lawrence reported that the Executive Committee suggested that a subcommittee plan an event to dedicate the SPL community room to Sister Ann. Please let him know if you would like to help.

10. Facilities Report: S. Gibbs

-S. Gibbs reported a notice to proceed for the AC and window restoration at Smith Hill.

11. Governance Report: P. Raub

-No report this month.

12. Advocacy Report: K. Wise

-K. Wise introduced Janet Fuentes, now working for PCL on PR issues and projects.

13. Ad hoc Personnel Committee: K. Wise and A. Chatto

K. Wise reported that the ad hoc committee looked at policies on sick leave/absences in other states and considered the concerns of the staff. A. Chatto noted that we operate with bare bones staffing and that is not likely to change; that is the context in which abuses, if any, need to be examined. She noted the need to determine if there is a widespread problem or a problem only with certain users; she also noted one of the recommendations is to see if “clumps” of absences are due to a problem person or to legitimate illness.

K. Wise reported that his review of atomized data showed that the problem was not widespread. He also noted that neighboring states do not have policies as fixed as the proposed one for PCL. The committee’s conclusion: The preliminary data should be turned over to the library managers who should analyze the data and, if a problem is indicated, talk to their staff. In 3-6 months, the library managers should report (through the Director) to the board on whether there is a need for further study or action.

D. Schimberg suggested we need Personnel Committee again. There was discussion of keeping the Ad Hoc model (M. McKenney, C. Wilmot) versus reinstating a permanent personnel committee. D. Schimberg, A. Graves, and R. Lee moved and seconded the creation of a Personnel Committee. M. Gardner proposed a revised motion, seconded by A. Graves and R. Lee, to have the Governance Committee explore whether there should be a permanent committee; if so, determine what the charge should be (based on such committees in other libraries); and make a recommendation to the board. The revised motion passed unanimously.

14. Public Comment

-K. McAninch noted that she still believes the policy regarding absences is a bargaining issue. M. McKenney responded that the board and admin relied on the advice of counsel.

-K. McAninch also noted that there was a delay in posting the notice of the board meeting. S. Gibbs explained that there had been a problem with the Secretary of State website and the failure of

the notice to appear wasn't discovered until today. S. Huber and J. Dagle will check to make sure all future notices appear when posted.

-D. Schimberg reminded everyone that this year's PawSox fundraiser is July 29.

15. Adjournment

A. Chatto moved to adjourn the meeting; M. Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Dagle  
Secretary