

Providence Community Library
Board of Directors Minutes
September 19, 2016
Annual Meeting
Rhode Island State House

1. Welcome and Call to Order

President Cyndie Wilmot called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Secretary Joan Dagle took the roll call of the board members, noting that 16 trustees were present constituting a quorum.

Present: Tony Aguilar, Avital Chatto, Elena Chiaradio, Joan Dagle, Deborah Del Gais, Althea Graves, Christine Kue, Matthew Lawrence, Robert Lin, Mark McKenney, Patricia Raub, Deborah Schimberg, Ellen Schwartz, Pamela Vogel, Cyndie Wilmot, and Ken Wise.

Absent: Christian Caldarone, Grace Diaz, Alan Gunther, Rochelle Lee, Silaphone Nhongvongsouthy.

2. Election of At-Large Board Members

C. Wilmot introduced P. Raub to present the slate of nominees recommended by the Governance Committee for re-election to at-large positions for 2-year terms: A. Chato; Elena Chiaradio; Matthew Lawrence.

There were no nominations from the floor. The vote to elect the four nominees: 16-0.

3. Election of Board Officers

P. Raub presented the slate of nominees recommended by the Governance Committee for re-election as board officers for 1-year terms: C. Wilmot, President; M. Lawrence, Vice President; E. Schwartz, Treasurer; Joan Dagle, Secretary.

There were no nominations from the floor. The vote to elect the four nominees: 16-0.

P. Raub also welcomed Robert Lin to the board, the new representative from the Rochambeau Friends.

4. President's Welcome

C. Wilmot welcomed everyone to the State House and to the annual PCL board meeting. She expressed her thanks to Cheryl Space, Sue Gibbs, Eileen Dyer, all members of the Leadership Team, all staff members, the Friends groups, and the board for all of the hard work and wonderful successes of the past year. She then introduced Jeffrey Cannell, PCL's new Library Director.

5. Director's Report

J. Cannell spoke about his pride in becoming part of PCL's team, and he spoke about PCL's unique grassroots story. He ended with words from Andre Gide that perhaps apply equally to his new role and PCL's unique experiment: "One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time."

6. Award Presentations

Mayor Elorza joined J. Cannell for the presentation of this year's awards.

Inaugural PCL Staff Awards: Judanne Hamidzada and Mike Nickerson.

PCL Volunteer Award: Ellen Schwartz.

Mayor Elorza spoke about the importance for the City of establishing a deep spirit of collaboration with important partners like PCL. He singled out the importance of summer learning initiatives and the summer reading program, and he also praised the book mobile. He expressed his pride in the partnership with PCL and his hope that the collaborative work continues in order to make sure that children keep learning.

7. Summer Reading Program

Cheryl Space thanked everyone at PCL for the opportunity to have this past wonderful summer. She thanked Almas Kalafian who worked tirelessly to get the mobile library bus; Mayor Elorza for the opportunity to be part of the collaboration with the Providence School Department to stop summer reading loss; and to the United Way for three years of funding for Summer Reading in the Schoolyard.

8. Panel Discussion: PCL Next Generation—Technology and Partnership

Library Director Jeff Cannell introduced Richard Culatta, Chief Innovation Officer for the State of RI, and Tom Flanagan, Chief Academic Office for the Providence Public Schools. The discussion included the importance of libraries as a way to get books in the hands of children, especially over the summer, as well as the movement of libraries away from traditional services and layouts and toward the concept of "digital hubs" promoting "digital citizenship" by overcoming the "digital divide" between those who merely consume digital tools and those who have the ability to use digital tools to design and create solutions to solve world problems.

9. President's Closing Remarks

C. Wilmot closed the meeting by reminding everyone about the November mini-golf fundraiser at Rochambeau and inviting everyone to adjourn to the corridor for the reception. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Dagle
Secretary