

Marlborough Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021
Virtual Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams

Meeting called to order by Tom Abel at 7:06pm

Board Members Attending: Tom Abel, Samantha Khosla, Robyn Ripley, Fred Haas, Bill Brewin, Rustin Kyle, Karen Bento, Janice Merk, Nena Bloomquist

Also Attending: Margaret Cardello, Library Director; Arthur Vigeant, Mayor of Marlborough; Wilson Chu, Marlborough Assistant City Clerk

Documents Reviewed/Referenced:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes from the January 5, 2021 meeting
3. Trust Fund/State Aid report for January 2021
4. Director's Report
5. Updated Donor Recognition Opportunities List

Proceedings:

1. **Minutes:** *A motion (Khosla/Ripley) to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2021 meeting was passed via a roll call vote.*
2. **Trust Fund Reports:** *A motion (Ripley/Kyle) to approve the trust fund reports for January 2021 was passed via a roll call vote.*
3. **Director's Report:**
 - The Contactless Holds Pickups program is now averaging 60 pickups a day and continues to run smoothly. The new pickup service model, which includes longer pickup windows, has been well received by patrons. One of the reasons for revising the pickup process, Margaret noted, was to provide staff with much needed time to develop and run programs for the community. The staff has made great use of this added time, creating a number of new programs including:
 - A variety of themed story-and-craft programs for younger children, including some in partnership with the YMCA of Central MA which has a grant that serves 100 families in Marlborough
 - An "ocean tank virtual experience" presented by the New England Aquarium
 - Zoom storytime/intro to the library for students and parents at the Guidepost Montessori School

- Craft programs, a virtual book club and a Spring Reading Challenge for teens

Samantha Kholsa requested that Margaret provide information on participation levels as programming ramps up.

- Margaret toured the new Tufts Library in Weymouth last month and spoke at length with the Director about “lessons learned” during the construction. There are a number of similarities between the Weymouth facility and our project, so this was a useful experience.
- The City’s new VOIP phone system, Votacall, will be installed at the library on February 17. There will be a period of time when the library’s phone system will be unavailable during the installation. Staff training on the new system is scheduled for February 18.
- Response to the digitization of 60 years of MHS yearbooks has been very positive from the community. Margaret has been interviewed by several local papers about the project, which will spread awareness further.

4. **Committee Reports:**

- Marlborough Public Library Foundation:
 - MPLF Chair Nena Bloomquist informed the board that Marlborough Nissan has made a very generous donation to the MPLF Capital Campaign in memory of Mena Hedin, a longtime MPL librarian who passed away recently. The Children’s Service Desk in the new library will be named in her honor. *A motion (Bento/Ripley) to approve the Naming Opportunity Memorandum of Agreement with Marlborough Nissan was passed via a roll call vote.*
 - Following up on last month’s news that her children donated to the campaign in her honor, Nena requested approval on a second agreement for a study room in the new library to be named for the Bloomquist-Farrell family. *A motion (Merk/Bento) to approve the Naming Opportunity Memorandum of Agreement with the Bloomquist-Farrell Family was passed via a roll call vote.*
 - Nena shared with the board an updated list of naming opportunities, explaining that the original list was developed in the early stages of the library renovation and expansion project. With the building design now being finalized, new areas have been identified and added.

5. **Old Business:**

- Margaret and the project team met with the MBLC Building Consultants last month, as planned, to review the construction documents. A follow up meeting

will be scheduled to review how the Building Consultants' input has been incorporated into the documents.

- Tom asked for an update on the status of this year's Trustees Scholarship for local graduating seniors. Nena reported that, per the board's suggestion, the essay question was updated to ask students to reflect on challenges of the past year. Details on the scholarship have been shared with local high schools that serve Marlborough students. Submissions are due at the end of March and will be discussed at the board's April meeting.

6. New Business

- Margaret asked the board for input on the library's piano, which was gifted to the library in the 1970s. The piano tuner who maintains the instrument for years has advised her that the piano is actually designed for home use and is too small for proper use in the new facility. Current plans for the new library call for dedicated storage space for the piano so it can be moved out of the way when not in use. And, there will be a cost to move and store it during construction. The board requested that Margaret investigate how much the piano has been used in the past and report back with that information, along with the costs for keeping and maintaining it, and options for selling/donating/etc.

7. Adjournment: *A motion (Bloomquist/Kyle) to adjourn was approved at 7:57pm.*

Minutes submitted by Janice Merk.