



MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, April 17, 2019
6:30 P.M.
900 Chicago Avenue Evanston, IL 60202

Members Present: Adam Goodman, Rachel Hayman, Ruth Hays, Shawn Iles, Vaishali Patel, Benjamin Schapiro and Margaret Laurie

Members Absent: None

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, Teri Campbell, Wynn Shawver, Connie Heneghan, Janice Bodja, Jill Schacter, Jill Skwerski, Mariana Borjorquez, John Devaney, Bridget Sweeney, Hilda Gonzalez, Melissa Halka, Rolinda Stevenson, Kerry Littel, Heather Norborg and Kim Hegelund

Presiding Member: Benjamin Schapiro, President

Call to order/Declaration of Quorum- President Schapiro called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was achieved at 6:37 pm.

Citizen Comment: C. DiGioia, C. Christensen, R. Keenan, S. Utley, S. Rodriguez, P. Bhayani, G. Rubier, R. Kossek, L. Lundy, R. A. Carve, L. Kennan, V. Chou, J. Peterson. Each citizen spoke in support of the CAMS staff and services with poignant testimonials of both the history and importance of this branch, expressing their desire for EPL to continue to invest in this site.

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the March 20, 2019 Board Meeting- Trustee Goodman moved to approve and Trustee Lurie seconded the motion which was approved by voice vote.

Information/Communications: Together, We are the Library

A. What will success look like at the new Robert Crown branch (Discussion): The Trustees discussed their vision for a successful new branch.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Discussion): Trustees finalized the development of the Racial Equity Task Force recommended as part of the equity assessment authored by Detta Jones & Associates. The launch of the application will be at the beginning of May for a one month period with a goal of establishing the task force by July. Trustees discussed outreach and communication at length.

Library Director's Report: Director Danczak Lyons shared highlights from her written report including how 79 conversations were shared with 15 "books" at The Human Library event that took place on Sunday April 14th. <https://www.epl.org/unjudge-someone/>

Staff Reports:

A. Administrative Services: Assistant Director Campbell shared with the Board that Courtney Reed Tanner joined the Innovation and Digital Learning Department as a library assistant in The Loft. In Lifelong Learning & Literacy, Jamillah Hinson will join the team

specializing in exhibits & creative programming and Heather Ross will take over literary programming. Hiring continues, and soon staff will be notified of postings for opportunities at Robert Crown. During National Library Week a campaign geared towards funding a robust opening day collection of materials for the Robert Crown Library brought in over \$16,000 towards the goal of \$50,000. It came from 232 gifts, 135 from first time donors. Revenue has reached 15% of the total budget while spending is on target at 20%.

B. Social Work: Cindy Castro and Christina Mendez presented on the role of the social worker in the library, and their service to the Evanston community. Since 2013 social workers have had a presence in the Evanston Public Library. Starting with second year student interns from Presence Behavioral Health working limited hours until February of 2017 when a full-time social worker was grant-funded and arranged through a partnership between the City of Evanston and Presence Behavioral Health (now Amita). In 2018, there were 653 encounters, up from 643 in 2017; of those 65% were referrals. Christina shared that her top three requests are for housing, employment and government programs. Also offered are emotional support, mental health crisis intervention and assisting library staff with training and debriefs. To date in 2019, Christina has had 194 encounters from January through March and 37 hours of staff support trainings.

Board Report:

A. Facilities Committee: The Facilities Committee recommends approving the replacement of the existing fire panel and system devices at the Main Library with Johnson Controls (Simplex) in the amount of \$99,084.83. Trustee Lurie moved and Trustee Hays seconded. The motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Board Development: Trustees spoke enthusiastically about their experience (as well as EPL staff) at the YWCA's 4th Annual Equity Summit. Trustees were exposed to a variety of tools, including the familiar GARE Racial Equity Assessment to help with system, community, organization and individual change. Trustees look forward to applying these principles to address inequality in partnership with the Equity Task Force.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Hours of Operation (Discussion):** At the board's request, Karen Danczak Lyons and Connie Heneghan discussed potential hours for Robert Crown that varied from the current hours at CAMS and North Branch. The board would like to consider more expansive hours based on programs and events that could reach new/different segments of Evanston. Finalizing the hours will be a complex issue that will evolve with planned community engagement events at the branch when it opens, Open+ access during off hours, and continued feedback from the community. The discussion will continue at the next board meeting.
- B. Chicago Avenue Main Street:** The current lease ends 12/31/19 with an option for two one-year lease extensions.

New Business:

- A. Appointment of Nominating Committee:** Vaishali Patel, Margaret Lurie and Ruth Hays were chosen to be on the Nominating Committee. Trustee Goodman moved and Trustee Hayman seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.
- B. Approval of Change in Non-Resident Card Fee-** Moved by Trustee Lurie, seconded by Trustee Hayman was a motion to change the non-resident fee card to \$208 which was approved by a roll call vote.

Executive Session:

- A.** The Board Meeting moved into Executive Session to discuss the Library Director's contract and Evaluation at 8:32pm by President Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Hayman.

- B.** The motion to move the board meeting out of executive session was moved by Trustee Hays and seconded by Trustee Patel and approved by voice vote.

- C.** The motion to approve decisions made in executive session was moved by Trustee Goodman and seconded by Trustee Lurie and approved by voice vote.

- D.** The motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19pm was moved by Trustee Lurie and seconded by Trustee Hayman and approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted
by Kim Hegelund