



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Wednesday, July 15, 2020**  
6:30 P.M.  
Remote Board Meeting

**Members Present:** Adam Goodman, Rachel Hayman, Ruth Hays, Denia Hester, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Vaishali Patel, Benjamin Schapiro and Terry Soto

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Karen Danczak Lyons, Ebony Ambrose, Jan Bojda, Teri Campbell, John Devaney, Kim Hegelund, Connie Henegan, Lea Hernandez-Solis, Tim Longo, Marlene Meyer, Jeny Mills, Heather Norborg, Jill Schacter, Wynn Shawver, Jennifer Shreve, Jill Skwerski, Rolinda Stevenson.

**Presiding Member:** Shawn Iles, President

**Call to order/Declaration of Quorum-** President Iles called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was established at 6:32 p.m.

**Citizen Comment:** The following Evanston residents provided public comment: Margaret Newman spoke in support of the EPL commitment on racial equity and proposed branch closures to equitably allocate limited resources. Lori Keenan (EPL Friends) spoke in opposition to proposed branch closures and support of expanded EPL locations. Tracy Fulce (EPL Racial Equity Task Force) spoke in support of the EPL intentional outreach to break down barriers and establishment of its RETF of which she is a member. Rebeca Mendoza (Evanston Latinos/D65 School Board/ward 5 resident/EPL podcast guest) spoke in support of collaborative work with EPL to bring needed services to the LatinX community in response to the pandemic, and a future EPL location in ward 5. Linnea Latimer (NU IT, community advocate, EPL RETF member) spoke in support of a future EPL location in ward 5 and thanked the board for its commitment to racial equity and charged the board to stand for those who need library resources most. Rebecca Cacayuran (Evanston Community Foundation) spoke to thank EPL for partnership with pandemic relief efforts specifically the Evanston Care Network the interactive directory of services available to residents. George Lowman (EPL volunteer tech instructor) shared the work he is doing at EPL to serve residents virtually with popular technology classes. Jim Hughes (EPL Friends/Central Street Neighbors Association) read a letter in support of reopening the north branch from CSNA. Nic Davis (EPL RETF) spoke in support of expanded virtual resources and in consolidation of branches for efficient use of resources, and in full funding for the library. Pat O'Connor (EPL Concierge) spoke in support of the variety of services offered at EPL, and of library plans and services, the fine free policy. Steve Johnson (EPL communications) spoke in support of plans that prioritize safety during the pandemic and allocate limited resources with an equity lens. Deborah Abbott Kisor (EPL Friends) read a statement from Central Street Evanston to advocate for reopening that north branch as an economic engine. Larry P Lundy (EPL Friends) read a statement from the Southeast Evanston Association in support of the reopening of the CAMS branch as an economic engine. Trish

Stieglitz (EPL Friends) read a letter from Michael Tannon (former EPL Trustee) reminding Trustees of the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Evanston giving the EPL Trustees exclusive control of library facilities and budget. Statements that were submitted in writing are attached.

**Consent Agenda:**

**A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the June 17, 2020 Board Meeting**

Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Patel, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:**

**A. Joint Committee (Update)**

Campbell reported on progress toward recommendations as outlined in EPL Equity Assessment. The internal EDI committee facilitates discussion on the racial equity curriculum, research on an equity toolkit for evaluation of efforts, land recognition research and recruitment for the new collection advisory group. The external RETF continues to challenge EPL operational and budget priorities and set out concrete ideas for the new grant-funded video series. Trustee Goodman welcomed the participation of RETF members during public comment and requested a future joint public discussion with the board.

**Library Director's Report (Distributed in Advanced):**

President Iles thanked staff who led the organization during Director Danczak Lyons absence, and welcomed her back. Director Danczak Lyons reported on the changing service model and the advances made during this time including the releasing the commitment to racial equity statement, enacting a fine-free policy, increasing virtual services and instituting curbside pick up. She signaled that tough budget choices will need to be made, and will be done with all voices at the table.

**Staff Report:**

**A. Administrative Services Report**

Campbell reported that permanent hiring remains frozen. The fiscal outlook is cautiously optimistic: revenue collection has reached % of budget projection, and expenditures % for the operating fund. Capital fund expenditures are at 25% of budget. Devaney reported on progress toward reopening Robert Crown (July 25) and the Main Library (July 13) facilities in accordance with the plan that includes curbside and computer lab access. Acting City Manager Erika Storlie gave a brief update on access to Robert Crown and status of plans to co-locate services in the Main Library. Trustees and administration expressed a desire to work with COE on an updated MOU and cohesive plan to share space for strategic services that will work well for the citizens of Evanston.

**Board Report/Development:**

Trustee Patel provided an update on discussion between the EPL Friends and potential new members.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**A. Branch location and operations discussion (Discussion)**

Director Danczak Lyons outlined the impact of social distance requirements on the likelihood of reopening Central St and Chicago Ave/Main St. She stressed that we do not have the resources

to open all four locations safely. Equity in service provision will be decoupled from location, not simply place-based. Trustees discussed the importance of the locations in question such as the implicit economic and community benefits of a branch, the under-investment in our priority community areas, the draw of south Evanston residents to Crown, the trust we want to restore with those most in need, the values that we will show in our budget decisions. This matter is action at the next board meeting.

Upon motion made by President Iles and seconded by Trustee Patel, the motion to move into the Executive Session was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Executive Session:**

**A. Executive Director's Performance Review**

Upon motion made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Patel, the motion to move out of the Executive Session was approved by roll call vote.

**Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Lurie and seconded by Trustee Hayman, and approved by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Submitted by Terry Soto/Teri Campbell