

# CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, October 2, 2023, 6:00 PM

## Blanchard Room

In Attendance: Todd Fabian-CPL Director, Jeremy Clemans, Chris Casco, Norm Kinsler, Michelle Marino, Charles O'Leary  
Guest: Fatawu Issah

1. J. Clemans calls the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Accept minutes of September 11, 2023 Monthly Meeting - C. Casco motions to accept, C. O'Leary seconds; All are in favor.
3. Public Comment
  - None
4. Library Director's Report and Monthly Update
  - The Director introduced new Lit Kits. The children's department has about 25-to-30 kits. Each kit has a theme. The plan for the Lit Kits was introduced by the previous children's librarian. This has been talked about for a while. Internal cataloging is difficult, making sure everything stays together may be a challenge. Board books, picture books, and toys are included in the kit. Each kit includes something that children can interact with. These are great for families to check out and take camping or to the beach, for example. The library may acquire more kits depending on patron response. Everything has been chosen carefully for each kit.
  - The Heights Library relies upon carts to store and display the collection. A few of the carts have failed. The wheels and bearings have broken. Items are on the carts 24/7 and that appears to have stressed the carts beyond

their capacity. New carts have been ordered that have a higher weight-bearing capacity, which should arrive soon. Next year's budget may include more industrial carts, depending on data collected from the incoming carts. In the meantime, a cart from the main branch has been moved to the Heights Branch until the new carts arrive.

- Money has been put aside for carts and supplies at the future Penacook Branch. There will be a storage room, kitchenette, and two gender-neutral bathrooms in the new building.
- N. Kinsler complimented Director Fabian on the new foreign language option on the library's website.

#### 5. CPL Foundation Update

- The Foundation has requested to participate in a joint meeting with the Trustees. The Foundation would like to go over a plan of action related to a new library. With a new mayor coming in and potentially new City Council members, a question was posed regarding whether the Trustees want to meet before or after the holidays when this Fall's city-wide elections will have taken place. J. Clemans responded that the next Trustee meeting is on November 6th, the day before the city-wide elections. The Trustees agreed that it makes sense to see what happens with the election and make plans for meeting with the Foundation after the new year, perhaps at the January 8, 2024 Trustee Meeting.
- The Director is currently working on the 2024 grant application to the Foundation. Perhaps new carts will be requested in the grant. This is still

up for discussion. Director Fabian will be meeting with the Foundation in a few weeks and will aim to let us know at the November meeting what the Foundation will fund. The grant provides funds from January to December, which is different than the City's funding year. This provides some additional flexibility in terms of purchasing items at different times of the year.

- For the Foundation, Rebecca Farver assumed the role of Chair.
- The Concord Reads program will start in the Spring of 2024.

#### 6. New Business

- Trustee position bylaws - a person shall not serve as Chair or Vice Chair for longer than three years. Re-election is possible after one year's time has lapsed. Current Trustee positions will stay the same until May, 2024.

#### 7. Old Business

- The Trustees discussed with Director Fabian the current number of open Trustee positions on the Board. Next month the Trustees will have seven members; nine members constitutes a full Board. The Director has had, and continues to have, conversations with those who express an interest in becoming library advocates.
- The Multicultural Fair went well. The CPL staff interacted with over 275 interactions with people at the Fair. It is a very positive regional event with people attending from all over, not just from Concord. CPL had library card signups, craft activities, as well as conversations with attendees regarding what the CPL offers.

8. Next meeting November 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

9. N. Kinsler motions to adjourn at 6:39 pm, C. O'Leary seconds; All are in favor.