

# CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2023

6:00 PM

### Library Blanchard Room

In Attendance: Jeremy Clemans, Chris Casco, the Library Director-Todd Fabian, Norm Kinsler, Michelle Marino, Charles O'Leary, Ali Sekou

1. J. Clemans calls the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Accept minutes of April 3, 2023 Monthly Meeting - C. Casco motions to accept, N. Kinsler seconds. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.
3. Public Comment
  - None
4. Library Director's Report and Monthly Update
  - It has been a quiet budget season so far. Once the City Manager does the presentation to the City Council the budget meetings will start back up again later this May.
  - CPL hired an Archivist, Reference & Outreach Coordinator. They are from out of state and are currently looking for housing. Their background check was approved. They will start at the end of May.
  - Last week, CPL opened the Heights for a special program called Civics Academy - a local group consisting of elementary and middle school new-American kids between 3rd-grade and 9th-grade. There were about twenty kids at the presentation. CPL did an intro to libraries. The children learned what libraries are in the United States and what they can find there. A lot of these children are from parts of the world that do not have

public libraries in their parts of the world. It's a real struggle to get the word about CPL out to certain communities. It was an exciting thing to introduce the library to these children.

- J. Clemans asked if there is a way to get a CPL library letter out to the parents of new-American children in their native language so the parents do not feel disconnected due to a language barrier. The Director will contact the New York City Public Library to see how they go about this and follow up at the next meeting.
- N. Kinsler asked if the library carries many books in other languages. The Director responded that the CPL is spending more money now on international titles than ever before due to the increase in the international population in Concord. There is currently a section at the Heights Branch Library of international titles.
- It is almost e-Bike season. The e-Bikes will be on the road soon. The first event is in two weeks. This year we plan to have the bikes visit all 10 wards in Concord.
- Regarding the CPL Trustee interviews: The Director has passed along one potential Trustee nominee to the City Manager. Two more possible people are considering if they would like to be a part of the CPL Board of Trustees.
- CPL reopened part of the lower lounge outside the auditorium to the public. It is called a quiet study area with three or four study carrels. So far, so good; the area is being used.

- J. Clemans pointed out that June will be our last Trustee meeting until September. We will take June and July off. Now is the time that we need to talk about Trustee positions. We will make those choices at the next meeting in June.

#### 5. CPL Foundation Update

- The Director stated that the last Foundation meeting focused on recruitment. A lot of members brought friends to the meeting so they could find out what being part of the CPL Foundation is all about. They discussed the Foundation's unique relationship with the CPL Board of Trustees and how those two roles are different.

#### 6. New Business

- A. Sekou is starting a French club at the CPL. It is geared toward people who took French in high school or college who would like to brush up on their French in hopes of not losing the language. The club is open to all people that have a basic understanding of French to start. The club would meet one day every other week at the library. The Director said that the CPL could host the club every other Monday at 5:00 p.m. The club will announce a start date soon, and run through the summer. We will touch base at the end of the summer to see where to go from there. There are native French speakers in the community that may be interested in teaching French to the community in the future, which would open up the club to people with no French language experience.

7. Old Business

- J. Clemans sent flowers to Ray. Still waiting for Lisa to get back from her travel adventures before we send flowers to her.
- The City of Concord submitted a grant application to get some funds for the new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club project in Penacook.

8. Next Meeting: June 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

9. N. Kinsler motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.; C. Casco seconds.

All are in favor.