



BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
December 18, 2017

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Jim Suhay at 7:30 p.m.

Library Board present: Frank Pisano, Bob Tera, Ashley Aidenbaum, Jim Suhay, David Underdown, Melissa Mark and Student Representative Sienna Capone.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Doug Koschik, Library Director; Rebekah Craft, Associate Director; Paul Gillin, Administrative Assistant; H Jennings, Adult Services Librarian and Jeff Jimison, Idea Lab Supervisor.

Friends of the Library Liaison: None.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: Sean Campbell, Tim Hill, Pamela Hill, David Bloom, and two others

Suhay asked Capone to read aloud the Library's mission statement.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

1st Underdown

2nd Pisano

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Suhay, Pisano, Tera, Underdown, Aidenbaum and Mark.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

Suhay introduced H Jennings, new part-time Adult Services Librarian, who talked about her background. The Board warmly welcomed her to Baldwin. Next, Jeff Jimison, Idea Lab Supervisor, gave a short demonstration of a 3D printer and showed off a few recent projects. Board members asked questions about the Lab's age requirements and the training/certification process.

Suhay announced the Board's committee assignments for the next year. Then he asked Capone to outline the application process for becoming the Library Board's new student representative (see pages 66-69 of the December board packet). The deadline to apply is January 12, 2018. For further information, contact Koschik or Craft.

Craft highlighted a few of Baldwin's upcoming events of interest, which can be found on page 103 of the



December board packet.

Next, Pisano acknowledged the following staff anniversary: MacMillan (3 years).

Board Committee Reports:

Building Committee: Pisano introduced Sean Campbell, Birmingham's Assistant City Planner. Campbell described the piece of art—*Eastern Hophornbeam* by Robert Lobe—recommended by the Birmingham Public Arts Board to replace the prior sculpture, which had been sold to the University of Michigan. He also described another possible piece for the southwest lawn, called *Stack* by Tom Joyce. At Aidenbaum's request, Tim and Pamela Hill then provided background on the concept and construction of the proposed piece as well as the possible alternate piece. Underdown stated that he thought *HophornBeam* didn't fit well in the space in front of the Library and stated that he hoped we had other choices. Tera also spoke out against *Eastern HophornBeam*. Suhay expressed his disapproval of the color and the dissonance between it and the building.

Motion: To deny approval of the proposed loan of *Eastern Hophornbeam*.

1st Pisano

2nd Suhay

Further discussion ensued. Underdown and Aidenbaum expressed the desire for more time to consider, now that they had a greater understanding of the pieces. Koschik expressed his reasons for not liking *Eastern Hophornbeam* in this particular setting. In general, staff preferred *Stack* to *Hophornbeam*. Craft echoed similar sentiments. A member of the public asked about the cost of installation, maintenance etc. Campbell mentioned that insurance is covered by the Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield; he did not know the cost of installation but stated that the City does not cover the cost of installation. Hill stated that the installation cost could be worked out collaboratively, if necessary. Koschik gave a little background on the City-Library tenant-landlord relationship and noted that the Library has never spent money on outside art installations. The City has the right to do what it wishes with the exterior of the Library property and has ultimate responsibility for any required cost. Capone stated that she feels that *Hophornbeam* is not optimal for the site. Another member of the public agreed with Koschik and Capone that *Eastern Hophornbeam* was not the best choice for the site. In his view *Stack* looks more natural and has the added advantage of looking like a bunch of books. Mark mentioned that this sculpture had been vetted by the City and that the artist was responsible for the installation (page 20 of the December board packet). Campbell stated that this referred more to the process of installation and not the cost.

The motion was re-read and a vote was taken:

Yeas: Suhay, Tera, Underdown, Aidenbaum and Mark.

Nays: Pisano.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved by 5 to 1.



Motion: To postpone approval of the proposed loan of *Stack* until a thorough review has been conducted of suitable alternatives for the site.

1st Pisano
2nd Tera

Another motion was made to amend the prior motion by adding the following: and furthermore to instruct the Library Director to initiate discussions with the City of Birmingham on how to carry out such a review.

The complete amended motion for consideration was: To postpone approval of the proposed loan of *Stack* until a thorough review has been conducted of suitable alternatives for the site, and furthermore to instruct the Library Director to initiate discussions with the City of Birmingham on how to carry out such a review.

1st Pisano
2nd Tera

Yeas: Suhay, Pisano, Tera, Underdown, Aidenbaum and Mark.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Pisano reported that there had been a working session about the proposed Youth Room project on November 15, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Complete notes from this meeting are on page 40 of the December Board packet. The Building Committee met on November 29, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Complete minutes of this meeting are on pages 17-18 of the December board packet. Pisano also discussed the Building Committee meeting of December 14, 2017, minutes of which are not in the December Board packet. They will, however, be provided in the January 2018 Board packet. The next meeting of the Building Committee will take place on January 3, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Finance Committee: Tera reported that the Committee met on December 11, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Ron Carpenter from Raymond James reviewed the investment performance of the Trust and recommended some rebalancing of the Trust assets due to the upward movement of equities. The FY 2017-2018 budget continues to track well. Complete minutes of this meeting are on page 14 of the December Board packet. Pisano reported that he had attended both the City's Investment Committee meeting and the Retirement Board Committee meeting; their funds are all performing well. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

4. Library Report:

Koschik reported that the Foundation for Birmingham Senior Residents has awarded the Library an \$8,200 grant to procure four items, listed on page 52 of the December Board packet. He also reviewed numerous staff changes since the November Board meeting. Craft updated the Board on the Battle of the Books program and a few other items of interest. Aidenbaum stated that she had trouble navigating the website on an iPad; Craft will investigate. Additional details of the Library Report can be found on pages 49 – 62 of the December Board packet.



Suhay and Pisano acknowledged the ongoing success of the Friends of the Library lobby book sales.

5. Liaisons

Friends: There was no report.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. New and Miscellaneous Business: None.

8. Information Only: See pages 65 – 103 of the December Board packet.

9. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Pisano

2nd Underdown

Yeas: Suhay, Pisano, Tera, Underdown, Aidenbaum and Mark.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

Ashley Aidenbaum, Secretary

Date