



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2020**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by President Ashley Aidenbaum at 7:32 p.m.

Library Board present: Ashley Aidenbaum, Melissa Mark, Frank Pisano, Jim Suhay, Bob Tera, Jennifer Wheeler; and Student Representative Storm Stephenson

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Doug Koschik, Director; Rebekah Craft, Associate Director; Robert Stratton, Administrative Assistant.

Friends of the Library liaison present: Ryndee Carney.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: None.

This meeting was held online, via Zoom software.

Stephenson read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance following establishment of quorum.

1. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

1st Tera

2nd Mark

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

President's report: Aidenbaum thanked Library staff, the Board, volunteers, and the Friends for their work over the last month. She said she was excited to see that the sculpture, "Michigan Spring", had been installed on the southwest lawn of the Library.

Board comments: None.

Staff Anniversaries: Pisano recognized the following staff anniversaries: Brandon Bolek-Toubeaux (19 years of service), Petra Campbell (1 year), David Dapkus (3 years), Patricia Henricks (3 years), Jessica Hoeck (3 years), Jeff Jimison (3 years), James Keegan (1 year), Barby Nixon (18 years), Josh Rouan (20 years), Vicki Sower (13 years), Lynn Szykiel (1 year), and Liz Volpe (15 years).

Upcoming events of interest: Craft reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which can be found on pages 90-91 of the September Board packet. These events will be held virtually, as physical-presence Library programs have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

3. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Tera reported that the Finance Committee held a Zoom meeting on Monday, September 14. Present were Pisano, Suhay, Tera, Koschik, and Craft. Full minutes of this meeting can be found on pages 14 of the September Board packet.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Building Committee:

Suhay reported that the Construction Committee held working sessions on August 3, August 24, August 31, and September 14. Minutes of these meetings can be found on pages 17-24 of the September Board packet.

He provided the latest details and updates from the meeting on September 14, reported on page 23 of the September Board packet.

Mark inquired when the historic Baldwin wrought-iron gate would be installed. Koschik noted it would be installed the day of, or the day after, the fencing is installed, which is currently planned for the week of September 28.

The next working session of the Construction Committee will take place on Monday, September 28 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Personnel Committee:

Wheeler reported that several applications had been received for the Library Director posting. The deadline was Friday, September 18. These applications will be reviewed during the next Personnel Committee meeting. Library Director Doug Koschik will be retiring on January 15, 2021, after 30 years of service to the Library.

The next meeting of the Personnel Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

4. Library Report and Discussion of COVID 19 Measures:

Full details of the Library Report can be found on pages 33-56 of the September Board packet.

Koschik noted there was little news to report regarding the Library reopening and COVID-19. Any staff members who have suspected that they might have been exposed have stayed home, and no staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 to date.

The Birmingham Museum's Director, Leslie Pielack, would like to apply for a historical marker recognizing Martha Baldwin, to be installed on Library grounds. The marker would be sponsored by the Pomeroy Foundation, as part of the National Votes for Women Trail, which will honor women involved in the suffrage movement. A motion by the Library Board is needed to approve the concept and to state that the Library Board is willing to have the marker installed on Library property. Final approval of the marker will be determined by the Birmingham City Commission.

The Baldwin Seed Library has been established by Adult Services Librarian Mick Howey. These seeds are available to all patrons, with an expectation that participating patrons save seeds in the future to donate back to the Seed Library. Koschik thanked Howey for implementing this program, noting that it is timely given the growing interest in home-based activities and growing food at home.

The Grams Discovery Room naming ceremony took place on Sunday, September 13, with a reception held on the new garden terrace. A photo of Janice Billmeyer, after whom the room is named for, is now hanging in the Discovery Room.

The Library is in the process of hiring additional Pages to assist with shelving. Interviews took place during the week of September 14, and new staff will begin in early October.

'Michigan Spring', a sculpture by Jim Miller-Melberg, was installed on the southwest lawn of the Library last week. A photo of the installed sculpture can be found on page 44 of the September Board packet.

Numerous 'Hetz Globe' Arborvitae which were planted on the east side of the Library building were moved to the southwest side upon the recommendation of Rebekah Craft. The 'Hetz Globe' variety was too small, and larger Arborvitae were sourced by the construction company to take their place. Robert Stratton has created a proposal for adding perennial flowers to the flowerbeds along the southwest walkway, which will be brought before the Building Committee and architect.

Dimensional letters for the red interior entrance entryway to the Youth Room have been received and installed. The Youth Room renovation donor wall was installed on September 10. A photo of the donor wall can be found on page 51 of the September Board packet.

Koschik noted that the final stained glass panels will be installed over the Youth reference desk in October.

Craft reported that the Diversity and Inclusivity Committee had held meetings on September 9 and September 16, and will continue to hold weekly meetings. During these meetings, proposals were made to amend the Library's goals for 2020-2021. The Committee has so far brainstormed the following ideas: community outreach; encouraging high school students, as well as Library staff at lower levels, to pursue librarianship as a career; and changing policies and practices to encourage more inclusivity.

Craft continues to work with Michelle Hollo on marketing materials. Hollo has designed the October edition of Learn.Connect.Discover, posters and fliers for Youth Services, graphics for Books Unboxed and the Seed Library, and various posters used throughout the building. Six new library card designs are now available at the Circulation desk, which Hollo designed.

The Piety Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution have put up a Constitution Week display in the Grand Hall, which will remain through September 23.

The Idea Lab is currently offering 'take-and-make kits' for spring-powered cars, and will soon be offering kits for foam dart launchers. These are available for pick-up at the idea Lab, where patrons can join Jeff and other patrons on Zoom to put the kits together. The Idea Lab will be starting a circulating 'Tool Library' so patrons can check out the tools available in the Lab.

Craft also reported on the Summer Reading Program, full details of which can be found on pages 54-56 of the September Board packet. Wheeler commented that her children were very happy about the Friends' donation to Forgotten Harvest. Ten cents got donated for every activity or book completed during the program – a total of \$681.

5. Liaisons

Friends : Ryndee Carney noted the Friends concluded their 2019-2020 fiscal year at the end of August. Throughout the year, \$47,825 was donated to the Library by the Friends. 371 membership solicitations were mailed last week. The Friends Board met via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8 to brainstorm new ways to make up for a revenue shortfall, given that in-person book sales have been cancelled. A pilot program for online book sales has been proposed.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business:

Motion to approve the proposed Library goals for FY 2020-2021, as listed on pages 58-63 of the September Board packet, contingent on the replacement of the word ‘minority’ with ‘historically marginalized groups’ and the replacement of “value statement” with “vision statement.”

1st Tera

2nd Suhay

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Prior to the motion, Aidenbaum suggested that the term ‘minority’ should be replaced with ‘historically marginalized’. She noted that the word ‘minority’ describes groups based on their proportion to society, which is ever changing, and centers whiteness. She proposed moving forward with the Library goals with that change. The Board agreed unanimously on this point.

Motion to support the nomination of Martha Baldwin to be honored on the National Votes for Women Trail and to authorize the placement of the marker honoring her on the north lawn of the Baldwin Public Library building, should the Birmingham City Commission also agree.

1st Pisano

2nd Mark

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

9. Information Only: See pages 90-99 of the September Board packet.

10. General Public Comment Period: Former Library Board member David Underdown gave his regards to staff and the Board. He also noted that his daughter Amy Underdown was very impressed with the Summer Reading program.

11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Tera

2nd Mark

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

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Frank Pisano, Secretary

Date

APPROVED