



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
January 20, 2021**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

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

Library Board present: Melissa Mark (Birmingham, MI), Frank Pisano (Birmingham, MI), Jennifer Wheeler (Birmingham, MI), Ashley Aidenbaum (Birmingham, MI), Jim Suhay (Birmingham, MI), Bob Tera (Birmingham, MI); and Student Representatives Roni Blank and Storm Stephenson.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director; Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director; Robert Stratton, Administrative Assistant.

Friends of the Library liaison present: Ryndee Carney.

Contract community representatives present: Lawrence Freedman (Bingham Farms Village Council).

Members of the public present: Three.

This meeting was held online, via Zoom.

Blank 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 Suhay

2nd Tera

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: Mark noted the January 15 farewell event held to celebrate the service of former Library Director Doug Koschik. Board members, past and present, and staff members attended and shared remarks. Koschik was notified the Harry Allen Room will be renamed as the "Legacy Room," which serves to honor founder Martha Baldwin and previous Library Directors. He was notified of a newly created endowment fund in his name, the Doug Koschik Endowment Fund, made possible with combined donations totaling \$10,700. Appropos to much of his legacy, he has chosen to dedicate this fund to future building improvements.

Staff Introduction – Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director: Mark gave her regards in introducing new Associate Director Jaclyn Miller, who has 15 years' experience as a librarian and comes to Baldwin from Farmington Community Library, where she held the positions of Branch Manager and Interim Library Director. She earned

her MLIS degree from Wayne State in 2005. Miller noted the warm welcome she has received from Staff and Board members alike, and shared her excitement in being part of all that Baldwin has to offer the community. She is an avid traveler, MSU basketball and Tigers baseball fan, reads to relax, and enjoys challenging crossword puzzles.

Board comments: Tera provided notice of his upcoming resignation to the Board. He has purchased a home in West Bloomfield, which will make him ineligible to serve on the Baldwin Public Library Board of Directors. He thanked volunteers, contributors, City Commissioners, and fellow Board members, and emphasized his gratitude towards the public. Tera will continue his service until a new Board member is selected, and will attend the February Board meeting in his capacity as Trustee.

Staff Anniversaries: Pisano recognized the following staff anniversaries: Tharron Combs (1 year of service), Doug Koschik (30 years), Denice Hildebrandt (27 years), and Caroline Salucci (16 years).

Upcoming events of interest: Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which can be found on pages 36-37 of the January Board packet. These events will be held virtually, as in-person Library programs have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

3. Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee:

Pisano reported that the Finance Committee held a Zoom meeting on Monday, January 11. Present were Pisano, Suhay, Tera, Craft, Miller, and former Director Doug Koschik. Full minutes of this meeting can be found on page 16 of the January Board packet.

Pisano noted several large vendor expenses paid in December: Dailey Company, Baker and Taylor (materials), EBSCO (subscription renewals), Southern Computer Warehouse (staff computers), Midwest Collaborative (database renewal), Library Design & Associates (furniture), Midwest Tape and Overdrive (electronic resources).

The Committee discussed new renovations and financials to be presented to the City of Birmingham Long-Range Planning meeting, which will be held on January 23.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Building Committee:

Suhay reported that the Building Committee met via Zoom on Monday, December 28. Present were Mark, Pisano, Suhay, Craft, former Director Doug Koschik, and two members of the public. Full minutes of this meeting can be found on page 19 of the January Board packet. Deviations from these minutes are provided below.

Sample art poster panels were hung along two sides of the Youth Room fascia by Craft and David Bloom. Bloom has previously brought forth a public art installation initiative to the Board, and this sample installation is intended to show viability of the project. Pisano asked the Board for a current consensus on moving further with this initiative. Suhay indicated he preferred not to depart from the original Phase 2 architectural design feature of a plain white fascia on three sides that was originally proposed, but does not want to discourage a public initiative. He asked if this project must be approved by the City Commission and other boards and commissions, and expressed concern that this would involve increasing amounts of staff time. Aidenbaum is still gathering information to provide an informed opinion. Wheeler is awaiting a clearer idea of the final appearance. Mark would prefer to highlight public art as a feature of Phase 3, with a focus on library members driving the project. She noted she could not see the sample art during sunny weather or at night. She suggests

if there is a push for art, it should be larger and more visible. Pisano suggests hearing out the group drafting the artwork, as he feels the Board may be surprised by the results.

Craft has worked with Tony Kartsonas, a restoration artist, to discern the original paint color of the decorative beams and walls in the Grand Hall. Kartsonas took paint samples at the end of December and provided a report on the original paint colors to Craft and Miller. He determined the beams were originally a glazed, distressed brown color, giving the original beams an aged appearance. Kartsonas will provide a mock-up and quote for the restoration work, and has also recommended painters who can perform plaster repair and repaint the walls and ceiling of the Grand Hall. Leslie Pielack of the Birmingham Museum has worked with him in the past. Craft shared with the Board an archival photo of the original Grand Hall, showing the original beams.

Mark expressed concern at a completion timeline extending beyond the current Library closure, and suggested focusing on work that can be accomplished during this time of reduced traffic within the building. Suhay expressed a similar concern. Aidenbaum inquired if grants were being sought to fund the restoration work, and suggested this is an avenue worth pursuing.

The next meeting of the Building Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 2 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

4. Library Report and Discussion of COVID 19 Measures:

Craft reviewed the Strategic Plan Status Report, found on page 22 of the January Board packet. Goals have been adjusted due to COVID-19 related changes to service. Database sessions and downloadable content are on target, with wireless sessions down due to the recent closure. She noted librarian's efforts in continuing to create creative programming and their ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

Baldwin experienced a full closure from January 11 through 14 after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is due to return to work January 22. Library administration continues to monitor the reopening guidelines set in December. COVID-19 statistics related to these criteria are currently trending downward. Once the Library reopens to the public, staff and patrons must wear paper or fabric masks. Computers will be available by appointment-only for BPL-community patrons (Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Bloomfield Hills). Additional 'Internet To-Go' hot-spot kits are being purchased for patrons to use at home.

Aidenbaum expressed concern at the change in computer usage to BPL-community patrons only, specifically with vulnerable members of the community in mind, who use libraries as a safe space or as a last resort in pursuing needed resources. Craft provided assurances that Librarians will offer referral services to those members of the public in need of a safe space or other utilities. Craft noted these concerns are the most difficult part of COVID-19 related decision making.

Craft will present Phase 3 renovation plans to the City's Long-Range Planning Session on January 23 at 1:15PM. A memo for this report can be found on pages 38-46 of the January Board packet.

An 8-page 'Use the Baldwin Public Library at Home' newsletter was mailed to the community on January 12, detailing the numerous ways Baldwin resources may be used from home. Mark exclaimed "a wealth of opportunity is included here." Craft thanked Aidenbaum for the recommendation for creating a newsletter like this.

Craft and Miller will become the newest members of the Birmingham Rotary Club, beginning January 25. Former Director Koschik will continue to attend as a personal member.

In technology updates, Technical Services Coordinator Josh Rouan performed e-Commerce upgrades to the Polaris system, allowing patrons to manage and pay fines while logged in to their Library account. Automatic bathroom door openers have been installed, allowing doors to open with a wave of a hand. The Idea Lab is now performing media format conversions, allowing patrons to have their analog video and audio materials converted to a digital format.

Miller reported the IDEA Task Force met on January 6, and meets next on January 20. The Task Force will run a staff book club, which first meets on January 27, to discuss *Emergent Strategy* by adrienne maree brown (available on Hoopla). January 19 was the National Day of Racial Healing. Staff has compiled related resources and reading materials, which can be found at baldwinlib.org/bpl-celebrates-the-national-day-of-racial-healing/

Belinda Bolivar has been promoted to Technical Services Librarian. She will continue her work in Technical Services and also provide support the Adult Services reference desk. She has previously facilitated the Fall 2019 Adult Services program, "Creating a Cheese Board."

On January 14, Head of Youth Services Stephanie Klimmek gave a presentation to the Pembroke Elementary and Harlan Elementary School PTA groups detailing Library resources and Battle of the Books updates. Wheeler will work with other PTA presidents to schedule Klimmek for future PTA presentations.

Youth Librarians have helped organize a scavenger hunt with the Kids Library Society, which will be held from February 14 to 21, and are working on further outdoor activity programming options for children this winter.

Full details of the Library Report can be found on pages 21-33 of the January Board packet.

5. Liaisons

Friends: Carney reported two large membership gifts (\$500 & \$700) received recently. New memberships have been slower than usual, however, these large gifts have offset this variation from previous years. The Friends continue their online grab-bag sale, accessible at baldwinlib.org/shop/

Pisano recognized 40 years of marriage between Ryndee and John Carney on behalf of the Board.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: Larry Freedman stated his interest in receiving quick updates from Library and Board about hours of operation changes at the Library. The Board agreed it would be prudent to send communication updates to contract community liaisons following regular meetings.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business: None.

8. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

9. Information Only: See pages 36-37 of the January Board packet.

10. General Public Comment Period: David Underdown commented that his daughter Amy loves the availability of curbside pickup. He also noted the remarkable performance of poet Amanda Gorman during the US presidential inauguration ceremony.

Brice thanked Birmingham City Manager Thomas Markus for taking the time to tour the Library recently. She commended Tera for his service as a Board member. In regards to the Youth Room public art installation, she hopes Pisano and the Public Arts Board can consider the upcoming Phase 3 renovation as a time to pursue this initiative.

11. Adjournment:
Craft thanked Blank and Stephenson for their service as Student Representatives to the Library Board. This is their last meeting serving in this capacity. She congratulated them for their patience and great attitude during this unusual year. The Board also gave their regards.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

1st Tera
2nd Aidenbaum
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 9:11 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Wheeler, Secretary

Date