

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 13, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Alex Knopp, Chairman; Ralph Bloom; Taber Hamilton; Patsy Brescia;
Moina Noor

LIBRARY STAFF: Christine Bradley, Director; Sherelle Harris, Assistant Director

OTHERS: Kelly Kultys, The Norwalk Hour

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Knopp called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and noted that members were in attendance as listed above and there was a quorum present.

2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were in attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2019

**** MR. BLOOM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (4) FOUR IN FAVOR AND (1) ONE ABSTENTION-
MS. NOOR.**

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

A. Report on May 28 public hearing and approval of minutes

Mr. Knopp said that on May 28, 2019, there was an afternoon and an evening session held for the public hearing and that the meeting minutes will be submitted to the city.

Mr. Knopp said yesterday the Redevelopment Agency and the First Taxing District completed negotiations and that the execution of a lease for the Redevelopment Agency to utilize 3 Belden Avenue was approved for five years beginning on July 1, 2019 through July 1, 2024. He said he thinks it is important for the board to determine the impact of the lease on the proposed construction project and collaboration with Connecticut Public before any further steps are taken. He said that he and Ms. Bradley have a call scheduled on Monday with a representative from the State Library Board concerning the issue of control of property that the library wishes to utilize for the expansion and what impact the lease will have if not changed or amended on the grant application.

Mr. Knopp said that the Regional Plan Association has been involved in the planning of the Wall Street area and one the projects that was adopted last year was the idea to rely on anchor institutions as the hub of redevelopment activities to revitalize cities. He said that there was a conference held last week in New York regarding anchor institutions and they mean primarily Hospitals and Universities, and he provided an overview of the conference and said that he had suggested that Libraries also be used as anchors and they had seemed enthusiastic about it and he had offered that the Regional Plan Association hold a Connecticut Anchor Institution Conference at the Library to focus more on Connecticut.

B. Discussion/acceptance of Strategic Plan

**** MR. KNOPP MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**

**** MR. BLOOM SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Discussion/acceptance of Building Plan

**** MR. KNOPP MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**

**** MR. BLOOM SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. Approval to establish NPL Building Committee

**** MR. KNOPP MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**
**** MR. BLOOM SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. Approval to submit Notice of Intent

**** MR. KNOPP MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**
**** MR. BLOOM SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. Update on Discovery Museum project

Mr. Knopp said that this represents an effort that they will be making with other cultural and artistic intuitions for partnerships and collaborations that bring additional resources and opportunities into the Library to strengthen their already extraordinary programming. The museum will be coming in beginning Saturday for six to seven weeks of programming at both the main Library and the branch and the topic will be space themes for grades two and up. He said that he hopes the members of the Board will be able to attend either the 3:00PM session on Saturday when Mayor Rilling introduces the kids to the space suit and the functions it plays in space exploration and on Sunday at 1:00PM when the Rocket making and launching program is held. He said that it will be primarily run by the Discovery Museum staff and they will also be training some of the Library staff.

G. Update on Popup Library

Ms. Bradley provided an update and said that the Popup Library will be launched at the Nice Festival on Saturday, July 6, 2019, and she circulated a preliminary sketch of the Popup library. Mr. Knopp said that thanks to the effort of staff there will be an electric charging station installed in the Library parking lot using the funds that were appropriated to the vehicle but were not used, and it will be stored at the Yankee Doodle Garage. He said it will also be used as part of the Norwalk Reads program for the free distribution of books. Ms. Brescia suggested that the Popup Library also be used at the senior centers.

H. Election of Board Officers

**** MR. NOOR MOVED TO APPROVE THE CURRENT SLATE OF OFFICERS.**

**** HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. ADMINISTRATION REPORT

A. Statistics July 1, 2018-April, 2019

There was no report given.

B. Report on June 5 meeting with US Census Bureau

Ms. Bradley said that the city is putting a lot of effort into the Census and that representatives from the Census Bureau had contacted them and they are planning on having hiring events in both branches of the Library beginning in July. Ms. Brescia asked if there will be any signage in the Library announcing the opportunity. Ms. Bradley said “yes”.

Ms. Bradley requested closing the main Library at 5:30PM on July 3, 2019.

**** MS. BRESCIA MOVED TO APPROVE CLOSING THE MAIN LIBRARY AT 5:30PM ON JULY 3, 2019.**

****MR. BLOOM SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Bradley said that Bag Day is July 8, 2019, and they are celebrating with the city because that is also the day that the plastic bag ban will go into effect.

Ms. Bradley said that they will be cutting back the music CD collection because study space is needed. She said that 69% of the collection has not been circulated in the past year and 60% has not been circulated in two years.

Ms. Bradley said that on August 25, 2019, there will be a celebration of the Country of India held. Ms. Noor suggested to also feature Indian-American authors as well to make it broader.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed this evening.

9. ADJOURNMENT OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- ** MR. BLOOM MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MS. BRESCIA THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services