BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2019

In Attendance

**Trustees:** Barak Bar-Cohen, Andrew Erlichson, Robert Ginsberg, Audrey Gould, Jennifer Jang, Mayor Liz Lempert, Ruth Miller, Yamile Slebi, Pam Wakefield

**Library Staff:** Seth Berens, Erica Bess, Becky Bowers, Susan Chernik, Susan Conlon, Lisa Ham, Janie Hermann, Andre Levine, Janice Painter, Karen Rackley, Hannah Schmidl, Bonnie Sprouls, Morgan Taylor, Sonja Vloeberghs

**Others:** Josephine Dodge (Teen Rep), Helen Heintz (Friends), Madeleine Freundlich (Teen Rep), Elizabeth Leonard (Teen Rep), Member of the Public

At 7:02 p.m. Ms. Wakefield called the meeting to order and asked if proper notice of the meeting was given as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S. 10:4-6 et seq). Ms. Rackley confirmed that proper notice was given. On December 10, 2019 proper notice was posted in the library, published on the library’s website, and at 9:00 a.m. sent to the municipal clerks, the Princeton Packet, Town Topics, and Trenton Times and distributed to the standard distribution list.

President’s Report

Ms. Wakefield asked that Ms. Miller read Resolution 2019-30. Ms. Miller read the resolution to hire Jennifer Podolsky as the Executive Director. Mr. Ginsberg moved to approve Resolution 2019-30: Hire of Executive Director. Ms. Slebi seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Wakefield noted that Ms. Podolsky would start mid-February, and that she will meet with all staff on Friday, Dec. 20.

Resignation of Audrey Gould

Ms. Wakefield thanked Ms. Gould:

“... I want to salute our elegant, wise, generous and articulate Audrey Gould. This is in no way a goodbye.

Audrey will be a good partner to Jennifer and has been and will be an articulate advocate for the mission and staff of this library. The Gould family is at the heart and soul of Princeton Public Library. The annual Gould Lecture is always highly anticipated
and consistently delivers cutting edge information and thoughtful engagement. This community is stronger and smarter as a result of Audrey’s work with this library.

Audrey, we thank you for your past service and know we will continue to travel the library path with you.”

Ms. Wakefield noted that at the January Town Council meeting, Mayor Liz Lempert expects to appoint Edwina Hawes, Princeton resident and school psychologist at John Witherspoon Middle School, as a Trustee; Ms. Hawes will complete Ms. Gould’s unexpired term.

Consent Agenda

- Nov. 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- Final November Bills
- Preliminary December Bills
- Resolution 2019-28: 4Q 2019 Gifts
- Resolution 2019-29: Award Auditing Services

Approval of Consent Agenda: Ms. Miller moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Materials

Ms. Wakefield referred the Board to the materials included in the Board packet. There was no discussion on the included materials.

Friends Report

Ms. Heintz noted that the Friends:

- Provided the library with their last payments for 2019 – they gave the library their last pledge for the 2Reimage project, one year earlier than expected
- hosted a Children’s Book Sale last Saturday and raised $2800
- approved the slate of officers for 2020: Andrea Bradley – President; Dina Shaw – Vice President
- will welcome eight new members on the Council in January
- will host:
  - a special event Sunday breakfast for Jill Shulman, college admissions presenter
  - Trivia Night in February
  - Book Lovers Lunch in May 7 at Jasna Polana with Dani Shapiro
  - Annual Book Sale on May 1-3
  - Beyond Words Benefit with Gary Trudeau on Oct. 10

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Dec. 18, 2019 Minutes
Teen Representatives

The teens representatives noted that they recently hosted a capella night which was successful and popular; they have some upcoming, fun events at the library: indoor snowball fight and aviation afternoon.

Fundraising Update

Ms. Ham noted that the annual appeal is nearly complete with donations approximately $10,000 ahead of the same time last year with less donors. Ms. Ham expects to meet her goal by the end of the year.

New Business

Representing the Nominating Committee (Mr. Ginsberg, Ms. Jang, Ms. Slebi), Mr. Ginsberg recommended the following slate of Board of Trustees officers for 2020: Ruth Miller – President; Jennifer Jang – Vice President; Barak Bar-Cohen – Treasurer. The election of new offices will take place at the January BOT meeting.

Janie Hermann, Programming Manager, announced that the library will hold the Book Lovers Luncheon on April 15 with Madeline Albright.

Old Business

Ms. Wakefield, with agreement from the Board, noted the 2020 Board Meeting Dates will remain on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Ms. Wakefield noted the Environmental Impact Initiative has been tabled and will be revisited with Ms. Podolsky.

Adjournment/Meeting Schedule

Ms. Gould motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020.