



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 19, 2024  
Newport Public Library  
300 Spring Street, Newport, Rhode Island 02840

### **In Attendance**

*Board:* Peter Baylor, Merideth Bonvino, Kristie Gardiner, Tanner Jackson, Charlotte Marshall, Alan Ridnour, Edwina Sebest

*NPL Staff:* Joseph Logue, Alexandra Calandro

*For the Friends:* Pat Heller

*Guests:* Debbie Bailey and Don O'Brien (to be elected as Trustees)

*Excused:* Judy McCarthy

### **Call to Order & Determination of a Quorum**

A quorum being determined, the meeting was called to order at 4:33pm by Alan Ridnour.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

A motion was made and seconded to revise the minutes with the following amendments:

- Remove question marks from the minutes.
- Kristie requested that the minutes reflect her desire to address solar paneling at the October meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to revise and file the minutes that have been amended as discussed.

### **Election of Board of Trustees Slate**

- **For Reelection: Charlotte Marshall**
- **For Trusteeship: Debbie Bailey**
- **For Trusteeship: Don O'Brien**

Slate was introduced. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate.

### **July and August 2024: Building and Grounds Committee Report**

Jim has been very busy and is doing a great job.

### **Friends of the Newport Library Report**

Pat reported that the summer book sale raised \$2,200 and the next one will be the holiday sale in December. The Friends introduced two new board members: Marilyn Roderick and Carol Turcotte. Pat presented Joe with a check for \$26,500. \$15,000 is designated for operations, with \$4,000 designated for back issues of the Newport Daily News to be digitized, and the remaining for additional Hoopla services. Pat ended the report by encouraging staff to apply for funding.



### **Library Director's Report**

Joe reported that he has an unavoidable conflict on January 16<sup>th</sup> and asked to postpone the January Board meeting to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Merideth and Charlotte will be unable to attend on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The remaining members of the board agreed to move the meeting to January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Joe said that the Library had a very busy summer. The Library Public Annual Survey was submitted on September 10 (due September 15). If anyone would like to see the report, please reach out and he will send it.

The Civic Allocation for Fiscal 2025 was raised by \$40,000 and the State's Grant-in-Aid will surpass \$500,000 for the first time ever.

There are a few staffing updates. Mary Schoberth has retired from her full-time position as Children's Librarian, but will be working part-time until the end of October. Lindsey Towle, the part-time YA Librarian, will be moving into a full-time role. She will continue working part-time in the YA department and will also be working part-time in the Children's Department. Kim Pike has been recently hired as the new part-time Administrative Assistant. Lastly, Kera Whiteaker has been hired as a new part-time employee, splitting her hours between the Borrower Services and Young Adult departments.

The summer reading program was a great success. The Children's Department did an awesome job. Joe thanked Mary Schoberth for remaining on staff in a part-time capacity during this busy season and he also thanked the Friends for their generous gift

There are vacancies in Board of Trustees positions. Currently, there is no VP and no Secretary. Alexandra is taking notes during the regular sessions, but we will need an official Secretary only to take notes if the meetings go into Executive Sessions. Charlotte says that she would volunteer for the Secretary position and a motion was made and seconded with unanimous support.

### **Working Group Report**

There are ongoing conversations happening with Rhoda Mitchell and there is an upcoming site visit in which several board members expressed interest in joining.

### **Adjournment**

Business being concluded Alan/Mr. Ridnour asked for a motion to adjourn. Edwina/Ms Sebest made the motion which was seconded by Charlotte/Ms Marshall. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 4:56 PM

*Next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 4:30pm.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
September 20, 2024  
Alexandra Calandro  
Administrative Assistant*