



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
March 20, 2025
Newport Public Library
300 Spring Street, Newport, Rhode Island 02840

In Attendance

Board: Debbie Bailey, Peter Baylor, Merideth Bonvino, Kristie Gardiner, Charlotte Marshall, Don O'Brien, Alan Ridnour, Edwina Sebest;
NPL Staff: Joseph Logue, Alexandra Calandro;

Call to Order & Determination of a Quorum

Mr. Ridnour called the meeting to order at 4:33pm. A quorum was determined at 4:33pm

Approval of Agenda

The board unanimously agreed to approve the agenda following corrections to items four and five on the agenda.
#4. "December 2024 Building and Grounds Committee Report" will be corrected to "February 2025 Building and Grounds Committee Report".

#5. Edwina Sebest will present the Friends of the Newport Library Report.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion was proposed by Ms. Bonvino to amend the February meeting minutes to reflect her attendance. Mr. Baylor seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the minutes with this amendment.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

The roofing project is currently underway, and significant progress is being made.

Friends of the Newport Library Report

Ms. Sebest provided a report on recent community activities and sales. The February Sale, which lasted for 10 days, generated a total of \$2,619 in sales. Due to the ongoing roofing project, The Friends will not be hosting a sale in April; however, they do have a sale scheduled for August.

The Children's Summer Reading presentation, led by Cathy Gould, was a success. Initially requesting \$3,500, The Friends generously approved a donation of \$4,000 to support the initiative.

Ms. Sebest met with a professor from Salve Regina, who sought deaccessioned books for use as props in his Theater Movement classes. The meeting resulted in the professor leaving with two shopping bags filled with books. Additionally, Teen Librarian Lindsey successfully coordinated an opportunity for 15 students from Thompson Middle School to visit and shop in the bookstore.

Lastly, a volunteer appreciation party is scheduled to take place in the Friends Room on April 17th.

Library Director's Report

The Library Director commenced his report by expressing gratitude to The Friends for their generous \$4,000 donation to the Summer Reading Program. Mr. Logue informed the board that the Employee Retention Credit for \$110,000 from the Recovery Act has been suspended. Additionally, the Library Director recently announced his resignation and presented the board with a proposed timeline for his departure, which was met with no objections. The topic of the Library Director's resignation prompted an extensive discussion on the necessary action items and various considerations that will arise from his departure, including updating the job description for this position and

forming a search committee to review applicants and conduct interviews. There were many questions regarding the Open Meetings Act, which the Search Committee might need to consider when they begin to meet. There were various discussions regarding what should be required of the next Library Director. Mr. Logue informed the board that it is a state requirement in Rhode Island that Library Directors have an MLIS. Mr. O'Brien expressed his belief that the Library Director should conduct annual staff performance reviews. Ms. Bonvino recommended the library consider hiring a part-time bookkeeper and Mr. Logue agreed.

Adjournment

Business being concluded, Mr. Ridnour asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sebest made the motion and Ms. Bonvino seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 5:32 PM.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexandra Calandro
Administrative Assistant
March 20, 2025