



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 17, 2025  
Newport Public Library  
300 Spring Street, Newport, Rhode Island 02840

### **In Attendance**

Board: Debbie Bailey, Peter Baylor, Merideth Bonvino, Charlotte Marshall, Don O'Brien, Alan Ridnour, Edwina Sebest;  
Excused: Kristie Gardiner  
Also Present: Pat Heller, Joseph Logue

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

Mr. Ridnour called the meeting to order at 4:30, at which time it was determined that a quorum was present.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Ms Bonvino noted that the agenda item regarding the Friends of the Newport Public Library report would be given by Pat Heller. The minutes for the meeting will reflect this correction.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Ms Bailey made a motion to accept the March 2025 Board of Trustees meeting minutes, which Ms Marshall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Building and Grounds Committee Report**

Mr. Ridnour referred to the Property Manager's report for March 2025 which discussed the roof replacement project at length. Mr. Logue was able to give a general sense that the project was finishing on time and at budget, but he will ask Jim Mass to attend the May meeting if the replacement is complete.

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

Ms Heller mentioned that donations have slowed down which has an impact on the inventory to stock the book store. This may be a consequence of parking spots being at a premium. Because of this the Friends will not conduct their April sale. The next book sale will be held from July 10-17<sup>th</sup>. The membership drive will kick off in May. Ms Bailey asked about becoming a member and Ms Heller stated that a donation to the Friends was the criterion. Ms Heller asked that all Board members do their best to spread the word. A volunteer meeting was held on the morning of April 17<sup>th</sup> with 21 of the 31 volunteers attending. The Friends have raised approximately \$45,000 this fiscal year (June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025). Of this, \$34,000 has been given to the Library as of March 2025.

The Friends may be close – or may already have – donated \$1,000,000 to the Library since its incorporation in 1972. Mr. Logue called for ideas to mark this astounding achievement.

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

Mr. Logue reported that the position of Library Director has been posted to numerous sites for Library professionals, including the OLIS Job Line, Simmons University, University of Rhode Island, OSL Connects, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. With the approval of the Board of Trustees Mr. Logue will purchase a posting slot on the American Library Association open positions site.

### **Member Comment**

Ms Marshall requested information regarding the future of Aquidneck Park, specifically the carousel and the returning elephants. Mr. Logue will talk to Scott Wheeler, the head of the parks system.

### **Adjournment**

Business being concluded, Mr. Ridnour asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms Bonvino made the motion and Ms Sebest seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Joseph Logue*  
*Library Director*  
*April 17, 2025*