

James Blackstone Memorial Library
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Library Auditorium, 758 Main Street

Trustees (Present): Michelle Blank, Chad Edgar, Nancy Goldstein, Larry Greenberg, Cheryl Kaiden, Mary-Rita Killelea, Janice Kochanowski, Pat Sanders, Jack Thompson, Sue Wharfe, Lisa Zwack

Trustees (Absent): Liz Ferguson, Beth Law, Andy Melnick

Friends of the Library: Barbara Barrett

Staff: Katy McNicol, Library Director; Kathy Oxsalida, Business Manager; Tina Strell, Development Director; Jenna Anthony, Reference and Programming Librarian

Yale SOM Fellow: Brianna Hoelting

Pat Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes — Nancy Goldstein moved to approve the minutes. Michelle Blank seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Staff Presentation – Jenna Anthony, Reference and Programming Librarian, provided an overview of programming from planning to completion.

Director’s Report – Katy McNicol shared that during Read Across America day, she and Nicollette visited students at Murphy School. She also attended the Public Library Association Meeting in Columbus, OH and brought back several best practices such as how to make the library more inclusive. JBML had a great turnout for a community eclipse event and will be hosting a full day of events for Love My Library day on Saturday, April 13. She and other staff will attend the CT Library Association Conference on April 29-30 and JBML will host a “Friends of Connecticut Libraries” mini-conference on April 25.

Friends of the Library –Barbara Barrett reminded the Board of Trustees that the Friends are hosting a spring book sale on May 4 at their facility. They also just kicked off “Raise the Tent” fundraising for the September book sale. Friends renewals will go out at the end of May.

Treasurer’s Report – Janice Kochanowski reported that the current value of the investment account is \$4.113mm. The change in value reflects an increase of \$56k from the Mar 6 value of \$4.057mm. The Artist in Residence totals \$517k up \$11k from the Mar balance of \$506k.

Kathy Oxsalida presented the variance report. She stated that the variance remains positive.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee—Janice Kochanowski reported that the Finance Committee met on March 28. The finance committee approved the funds for the cornice repair. The approval was based upon the recommendations from the Building and Grounds Committee. Summit Masonry & Building Restoration will be fabricating the new piece using Tennessee Pink Marble and will be using stainless steel rods to affix the cornice to the building.

The NEXT Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25 at 4:00, if necessary.

Building and Grounds – Katy shared that the garage repair project will begin next week.

Development Committee – Nancy Goldstein reported that there are 3 new hole sponsors and 25 people have registered for the event. Tina will begin actively promoting the event next week. Nancy requested all board members to attend the upcoming Leadership Circle event on April 21 at 3:30 pm.

Governance Committee – Sue Wharfe reported

Action – Formation of Nominating Committee for FY2024-2025 Officers. Nancy Goldstein made a motion to approve. Michelle Blank seconded. The motion carried.

Action – Resolution of the Board of Trustees to Approve the Revised Bylaws. Larry Greenberg motioned to approve. Mary-Rita Killelea seconded. The Resolution to revise the bylaws motion carried as presented.

Public Comment – none .

Adjournment – Cheryl Kaiden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Zwack seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Next regular meeting will be held on May 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Kaiden
Secretary

Note: minutes are provisional until approved by the Board of Trustees.