

James Blackstone Memorial Library
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Library Auditorium, 758 Main Street

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

Trustees (Absent): Michelle Blank, Liz Ferguson, Larry Greenberg, Beth Law, Andy Melnick, Jack Thompson

Friends of the Library: Not present

Staff: Katy McNicol, Library Director; Kathy Oxsalida, Business Manager; Tina Strell, Development Director

Yale SOM Fellow: Brianna Hoelting

Pat Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes — Mary-Rita Killelea moved to approve the minutes. Janice Kochanowski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation of GYL Financial Synergies – Michael Lepore and Claire McDonald from GYL Financial Synergies provided an overview of their investment strategy for the Library going forward.

Director’s Report – Katy McNicol shared an overview of key learnings from the Connecticut Library Associate conference. She also noted there was a good turnout for the 2024 Leadership Circle event. JBML was the recipient of a \$1,400 state grant for general library purposes. Kate also met with Woodwinds to explore small events at JBML.

Friends of the Library – On behalf of Barbara Barrett, Katy McNicol 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.

Treasurer’s Report – Janice Kochanowski reported that the current value of the investment account as of close of business yesterday was \$4.025m, down \$88k from April 10th’s balance of \$4.113mm. The Artist in Residence investment account totals \$502k down \$15k from April’s balance of \$517k.

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

Committee Reports

Finance Committee—Janice Kochanowski reported that the Finance Committee did not meet in April.

The NEXT Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th at 4:00 pm, if necessary.

Building and Grounds - Katy McNicol reported that the work on the chiller screen has begun.

Development Committee – Nancy Goldstein reported that the development committee is looking for additional mini-golf and hole sponsors and volunteers for the upcoming event.

Governance Committee – Sue Wharfe reminded the Board of Trustees to complete the Board self-assessment survey.

Sue Wharfe motioned for the appointment of Liz Alcorn to fill Lynette Gannon’s remaining term ending June 2026. Lisa Zwack seconded. The motion carried.

Sue Wharfe motioned for the appointment of new Trustees Cristina Cantu and Paul Gavejian terms ending June 2027. Mary-Rita Killelea seconded. The motion carried.

Sue shared that the officer slate for FY2024-2025 is as follows and the election will take place at the next Board of Trustees meeting, June 5:

- President: Janice Kochanowski
- Vice President: Cheryl Kaiden
- Treasurer: Larry Greenberg
- Assistant Treasurer: Jack Thompson
- Secretary: Mary-Rita Killelea

Library Director Annual Review – Pat Sanders shared that this process is underway. Katy will provide her self-evaluation to Pat in early May and the Board of Trustees will receive an evaluation questionnaire along with Katy’s evaluation mid-May.

Public Comment – none

Adjournment – Janice Kochanowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary-Rita Killelea seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Next regular meeting will be held on June 5, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Kaiden
Secretary

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