

**THE FERGUSON LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**June 15, 2021**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** A. Livingston (Chair); E. Bromley; R. Granata; S. Frederick;  
M. Hyman; S. Kim; P. O'Brien Morrow; S. O'Shea

**Citizen Advisers:** R. Baron; T. Bartley; J. Block; T. Cassone; S. Duarte; C. Ernst;  
D. Kooris; E. Larson; T. Lucero; R. Mercede

**Staff:** A. Knapp; L. Avellar; C. Harper; C. Hubbard; E. Joseph; S. LaPerla

The meeting was called to order and was held via zoom.

Mr. Livingston wanted to acknowledge the loss of Dudley Williams and Gail Malloy with a moment of silence.

**Minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2021 meeting was approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Harper presented the income statement for the eleven months ending May 31, 2021, noting variances in several categories.

**President's Report**

Ms. Knapp reported that June's hours were rolled back to 10 AM instead of 11 AM would result in an increase in circulation. The plan is to open evening hours in late August at the Main Branch. The Library is seeking to hire additional part time staff to cover those evening hours.

Elizabeth Joseph reported on some of the events for the summer. Summer reading would be a hybrid of Zoom and in person. The Immigrant Heritage Celebration was held on the first of June on the Plaza. June 19<sup>th</sup> Black Lives Matter Street Mural, included a concert and mobile COVID vaccine booth. This year's summer Crime Con will be a three-part series and will have mystery writers. The Stamford Pride supporting the LTGQ, which is getting off the ground, will close out the summer programs.

Susan LaPerla reported on the youth summer reading program with Cradle to Careers' "Raise a Reading" program, which has reading coaches at the varies camp sites, YWCA and Itempo. Other summer reading initiatives are Building One and the Link Library, SPEF (Stamford Public Education Foundation) is coordinating after school

programs, and Grab & Go meals at the South End Branch. Staff have been assisting parents with remote learning. Ms. LaPerla announced that Erin Shea, Supervisor of Harry Bennett and Weed Branches had resigned and has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Mark Twain Library in Redding. Denise Lyles, former Youth Librarian at the South End Branch, has been promoted to replace Erin Shea.

### **Executive Committee**

Mr. Livingston said that the Executive Committee met via zoom on June 15, 2021 and reviewed the matters on the Board of Trustees agenda. Draft minutes of this meeting were distributed through email prior to the board meeting.

### **Building Committee**

Ms. Knapp stated that it took thirty years to renovate the South End branch, and that a RFP for a Master Facilities Plans, for the Main, Harry Bennett and Weed branches is needed. We need to develop a benchmark on all the buildings and review the renovation needs, so that we can make proposals to the City for capital dollars.

### **Development Committee**

Ms. Avellar reported the year-to-date giving donations are \$230,000 and are just as good as in 2019. The annual appeal is up 13% over last year. Gifts were received in memory of Dudley Williams and Gail Malloy, totaling \$10,000. The Donor Reception will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM at the Harry Bennett Branch.

Ms. Knapp stated that if the city elects a Mayor or Board of Representative that does not support the Library that could affect next year's budget request.

A Stainability Task Force will be established to look at raising dollars and reducing cost.

### **Long Range Planning Committee**

Ms. O'Shea said the Committee met on April 14, 2021. Invitations were sent out for training practice on community conversation.

### **Friends of Ferguson**

Ms. Ernst reported that the Friends ended the year in the black. Both book shops are doing well. On Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, they held a Bag Sale which generated \$2,000 and sold 4,000 books.

The Friends will take part in a Craft Fair at Harbor Point. Friends are working with a Pollinator Pathway group and library staff to expand the memorial garden at the Bennett Branch. This is Ms. Ernst last board meeting as President of the Friends.

### **2021-2022 Budgets**

Ms. Harper present the final budget approved by the city. For the Weed Roofing project \$200,000 was bonded and is going out for bid. A motion was made by Mr. Livingston, and it was approved by the Board.

### **Molestation Policy**

Ms. Knapp stated that a molestation policy was necessary for the annual renewal of our liability insurance. A motion was made by Mr. Livingston, and it was approved by the Board.

### **Foundation Resolution**

Ms. Knapp said that the Library has a surplus at the end of this fiscal year due to the forgiveness of the PPP Loan. The Library would like to transfer \$150,000 to the Foundation to help grow the fund. A motion was made by Mr. Livingston, and it was approved by the Board.

### **National Review**

The following Resolution was passed

**WHEREAS**, The Ferguson Library ("library") received a series of gifts of National Review, Inc. Class B non-voting stock from William and Patricia Buckley from 1993 to 2007;

**AND WHEREAS**; in August 2014, the publisher of National Review expressed an interest in buying the library's shares to convert the company to a non-profit;

**AND WHEREAS**; in December 2014, the library and National Review agreed on a sales price of \$250,000 for all the library's shares and that amount was subsequently paid to the library;

**AND WHEREAS**; on February 24, 2015, the library's Board of Trustees authorized the transfer of the \$250,000 sales proceeds to The Ferguson Library Foundation;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that The Ferguson Library hereby expressly forgoes any and all interest in the 2015 transfer of \$250,000 to The Ferguson Library Foundation.

**Memorial Donations for Dudley Williams and Gail Malloy**

Ms. Knapp made a recommendation to transfer the donations received in memory Dudley Williams and Gail Malloy to the Foundation. A motion was made by Mr. Livingston, and it was approved by the Board.

**Nick Bochicchio**

Ms. Knapp requested a resolution for June 28, 2021 for Nick Bochicchio in appreciation for twenty-seven years of services and dedication to the Library. A motion was made by Mr. Livingston, and it was approved by the Board to accept the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Nicholas A. Bochicchio, Jr. has served as Director of Administrative Services for the Ferguson Library since July 1, 1994;

**WHEREAS**, Nicholas A. Bochicchio, Jr. has ably and diligently performed his duties with integrity, dedication and a dose of humor;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Ferguson Library hereby extends its sincere appreciation to Nicholas A. Bochicchio, Jr. for his distinguished and dedicated service

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Robert J. Granata  
Secretary