

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes



Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Harris Room

Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
1026 E. Kearsley Street
Flint, MI 48503

Present: Reta Stanley (President), Heather Kale (Vice President), Melissa Brown

Absent with Notification: Vivian Kao (Secretary), Audrey Young-Muhammad, Kathy Jackson

Absent without Notification: Brian Larkin (Treasurer)

Staff: Taliah Abdullah, Jensen Sikora, Martita Moffett-Page, Tina Hayes, Regina Renee Nyégbeh, Rick Dunning

Public: 0

CALL TO ORDER

President Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA *

As insufficient representatives were present to achieve quorum, this topic has been tabled until the next regular board meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As insufficient representatives were present to achieve quorum, this topic has been tabled until the next regular board meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS **

None.

BUDGET, FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

As insufficient representatives were present to achieve quorum, this topic has been tabled until the next regular board meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

OTHER REPORTS AND ACTIONS

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (Kale + Rao)

Vice President Kale met with Ashoka Rao, Cassie Mead, and Jensen Sikora to discuss building spreadsheets that would allow the Fundraising Committee to report on key areas of fund development. The hope is that this initiative will bring greater clarity on revenue streams, as well as better engage the Board on fundraising endeavors. To continue working toward this end, this core group of staff will be meeting with Vice President Kale monthly.

Mead and Sikora are working together to build reports in Bloomerang (the library's fundraising platform / software), which will then be presented in spreadsheet format. Vice President Kale reported on this platform, explaining Bloomerang is a more intuitive and higher-functioning variation of other fundraising applications (such as Raiser's Edge). Sikora clarified that an assessment of such programs was previously done at the library, and that Bloomerang (with Qgiv) proved to be more cost effective and useful than other options.

BEN F. BRYER FOUNDATION GRANT

Vice President Kale followed up regarding the Ben F. Bryer Foundation grant application, stating that the library was awarded \$40,000 to support Youth Programming and a Literary Festival over the summer. This grant also evens out the discrepancy in fundraising yields, as discussed in previous board meetings, regarding last year's memorial gifts.

This grant award will be presented in a forthcoming resolution to accept the funding into the current fiscal year.

LEARN FOR LIFE BREAKFAST

Regarding the Learn for Life Breakfast: Ashoka Rao has projected that we will surpass 2023 corporate sponsorship amount by \$4,500. Table hosts and guests are now the main focus; evites are expected to be mailed out in the coming week. Vice President Kale will be bringing additional information regarding past earnings to the next regular board meeting.

President Stanley brought up table-hosting and board expectations, acknowledging a need for clarity regarding both board and guest commitment at the event. How much does a table cost? Are guests expected or encouraged to pay a minimum of \$100 for their seat at the table, and from where did that number come? How should this be pitched to potential table hosts? In the future, this should be better defined, so board members (and others) can better represent the library.

President Stanley recommended that every board member be expected to host a table, and will reach out to Ashoka Rao for clarity. Vice President Kale plans to ensure these details appear in writing for future Learn for Life events.

Executive Director Abdullah would like to see the event hosted in a singular space, rather than having guests move from one room to another. There are currently 12 tables reserved for table hosts, and 19 is the maximum number of tables the library can support.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Ashoka Rao projected the receipt of \$80,000 for two room-naming sponsorships. This has increased by \$5,000 as one of the sponsors opted to sponsor a differently priced room. Because this money is part of the capital campaign, it will not be utilized for library operational expenses.

Executive Director Abdullah reported that staff must put forth a recommendation (to the Finance Committee) regarding where the capital campaign funds are used. Martita Moffett-Page added that the financial auditors are also asking questions around this topic.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Kale)

The Public Relations Committee had nothing to report.

POLICY COMMITTEE (Stanley)

As insufficient representatives were present to achieve quorum, this topic has been tabled until the next regular board meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2024. In the meantime, board members are encouraged to read the by-laws related documents in advance of voting at the next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report; this is being tabled until the next regular board meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (Stanley)

President Stanley apologized for not being prepared to navigate the meeting, given the number of last-minute absences. She ensured that she'd be following up with the board about notifying

library staff in advance, so Jensen Sikora can appropriately list absences as with or without notification (per the board's by-laws requirements).

President Stanley also noted that Gloria Coles and the library were featured in an interview on the AC Dumas Show.

On Facebook, Alonzo Hill was acknowledged as being an integral part of the library. President Stanley mentioned reinstating the board signing birthday and work anniversary cards for the staff. Jensen Sikora is currently collecting such cards and will be bringing them to board meetings as important dates come up.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Abdullah)

The Gloria Coles Flint Public Library is participating in the Post-Pandemic Public Libraries program, which is in collaboration with the University of Michigan School of Information and Library of Michigan, and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This participation is allowing libraries to opt-in to participating in a survey, which opened on March 28. The University of Michigan will collect and analyze the results before disseminating information to the participating libraries.

Please complete the survey and also pass it along to others. This will have an impact on future planning and areas of focus. The survey closes on May 10, 2024.

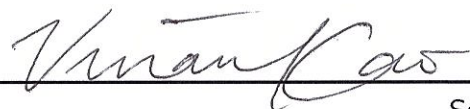
UPCOMING EVENTS

Black Life and Literature Book Club is coming this summer. Regina Renee Nyégbeh has been visiting all of the book clubs hosted by the various organizations on the cultural center campus. Each of these book clubs focus on books relevant to the organization, and then engage in spaces at the organization (e.g., the planetarium read a cosmic-related book, then proceed into the dome to view areas of the universe discussed in the book). The library has a Black Life + Literature section, and we are going to emphasize that.

Rick reported that the team has been implementing robotics in Lego programming. Also, the Armchair Travelers program has returned, and now includes VR programming that allows people to experience the places they view in a Travelogue video.

ADJOURNMENT

President Stanley called to adjourn the meeting at 6:43pm.



Secretary