

**Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**January 19, 2021**  
**WebEx – 12:00 noon**

**Members Present:** Keith Simmons, Kate Ezell, Robert Oermann, Joyce Searcy, Katy Varney, Adriana Bialostozky

**Members Absent:** Charvis Rand

**Library Staff:** Kent Oliver, Bernadette Hugan, Jena Schmid, Lee Boulie, Susan Drye, Terri Luke, Stephanie Rodriguez, Larry Jirik (WebEx Support), Corey Frederick, Anna Harutyunyan, Liz Coleman

**Also Present:** Derrick Smith, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Shawn Bakker, Nashville Public Library Foundation President, Donald Holmes, Nashville Public Library Foundation Board Member

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Keith Simmons called the meeting to order at 12:14 PM.

**II. Metro Ordinance required to be announced at all Board Meetings**

“Pursuant to the provisions of § 2.68.030 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws, please take notice that decisions of the Nashville Public Library Board may be appealed to the Chancery Court of Davidson County for review under a common law writ of certiorari. Any appeal must be filed within sixty days after entry of a final decision by the Board. Any person or other entity considering an appeal should consult with an attorney to ensure that time and procedural requirements are met.”

**III. Motion to Approve Conducting Meeting by Electronic Means and Suspending Rules**

I move that the items on the meeting agenda constitute essential business of this Board, meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans considering the COVID-19 outbreak, and any rule that conflicts with Governor’s Executive Order 16 permitting electronic meetings be suspended.

Joyce Searcy moved to approve conducting the meeting by electronic means and suspending rules; the motion was seconded by Katy Varney and passed unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes: December 8, 2020**

Robert Oermann moved for approval of the minutes from the December meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. Varney and passed unanimously.

**V. Library Director Report, *Kent Oliver***

- a. Kent Oliver reported that there were no issues concerning violent disturbances around the Main Library on Sunday, January 17. Most protests were conducted peacefully. The library plans to be open on Wednesday, January 20.
- b. Mr. Oliver explained that there is still no firm information about Metro's budget for this year. However, Mr. Oliver recently met with Metro Finance in regard to the 4% budget.
- c. Mr. Oliver will make a presentation in Antioch on Wednesday, January 20, about a development on Smith Springs Road. A developer has agreed to give Metro 2.4 acres for the construction of a new library across from the Parks Department facility in that area. The Smith Springs Road development is part of the Facilities Master Plan.
- d. Mr. Oliver explained that NPL's Technical Services has made great progress with the prospect of NPL being able to accept credit card payments. The Conference Center, Archives, and Special Collections are now able to utilize this payment method. NPL expects to make this option available for patrons to make payments online in the near future.
- e. Mr. Oliver mentioned that he regularly receives questions about NPL reopening for in-person services. Reopening will be decided by the prevalence of the virus, rate of vaccinations and NPL's ability to fill its 50 open staff positions. There have been positive signs from Metro that NPL will be able move forward on filling these positions. The AdminTeam has begun meeting about what NPL's services will look like after the pandemic.
- f. Ms. Searcy asked if NPL would be interested in serving as an access point for the community to receive vaccinations. She suggested that a mobile health department unit could be deployed to library parking lots whenever ample doses are delivered to the Health Department. Mr. Oliver has volunteered NPL as potential sites to the Health Department.
- g. Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Oliver to elaborate on the graduate architecture program as well as Entrepreneurial Mindset Training.
- h. Mr. Oliver commented that the Edmondson Homestead project has been an effort to renovate the area near the Edgehill Branch and Edgehill Community Memorial Gardens. An expansion of the Edgehill Branch is part of NPL's Facilities Master Plan, and this

project may provide NPL the opportunity for the new Edgehill Branch to be located within the renovated Murrell School.. Entrepreneurial Mindset Training by EBSCO offers help to people who are considering entrepreneurship. A subscription to the training program includes training for library staff to assist customers with the program.

**VI. NPL Foundation Update, *Shawn Bakker***

- a. NPLF is currently looking at how to host events in the Fall. The picnic, which is usually in April or May, will not be at the library, but NPLF is considering hosting it virtually or encouraging small groups to picnic in their front yards or local parks.
- b. String City has been canceled this Spring, but it has been rescheduled to early Fall 2021.
- c. Shawn Bakker asked for connections to young professionals who would be interested in joining NPLF's Next Chapter Society. The group has been actively holding virtual trivia competitions as well as online book clubs.
- d. Ms. Bakker asked the Library Board to pass along any connections they may have with Whole Foods and Ameriprise Financial.
- e. Mr. Oliver introduced Donald Holmes, one of NPLF's Board members.

**VII. Art Committee Report, *Liz Coleman***

- a. Liz Coleman discussed the new Artwork Lending Library project that is part of a Metro Nashville Arts Commission initiative. The commission has budgeted \$100,000 for this project, and they have used about \$25,000 of this budget so far to purchase 60 pieces of art from local artists from diverse backgrounds.

**VIII. Staff Reports**

**a. Curbside Update, *Terri Luke***

- a. Ms. Luke described the current state of curbside services at 13 locations throughout NPL. Green Hills is piloting an SMS-based product called Curbside Communicator to make communication between staff and curbside customers more efficient. Curbside services include story time craft kits, book bundles, mobile printing, tax forms, library card applications, *Unbound*, and the Seed Exchange. Mobile printing has been successful throughout the system, averaging printing over 4,000 pages per month from 365 users per month. Customers have also found NPL's book bundle service through

Library Concierge to be an invaluable service. NPL continues to see positive comments from customers about being able to access the collection through curbside.

**b. Public Computer Access Update, Jena Schmid**

a. Jena Schmid updated the Library Board on Phase 1.5, which opens some NPL facilities to the public for computer reservations. Phase 1.5 began in October and quickly adjusted to allowing same-day reservations. Locations average about 4 – 5 sessions per day; reservations have steadily increased since Phase 1.5 began. Most customers use their computer reservations to work on resumes, search for jobs, or complete housing applications. Ms. Schmid echoed Ms. Luke in stating that mobile printing has been extremely popular; many customers take advantage of this service rather than make computer reservations. There have been only a few security incidences dealing with customers wearing masks properly.

**a. NAZA Update, Anna Harutyunyan**

a. Anna Harutyunyan discussed the 10-year history of Nashville After Zone Alliance and the organization’s dedication to funding afterschool programs for middle schoolers as well as providing capacity building opportunities for youth development professionals across the city.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

**Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting**

February 16, 2021

Location: TBD

*Respectfully submitted by Corey Frederick*