

**Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes from June 15, 2021**  
**Main Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219**  
**Conference Room 1A – 12:00 noon**

**Members Present:** Joyce Searcy, Keith Simmons, Charvis Rand, Robert Oermann, Adriana Bialostozky, Katy Varney

**Library Staff:** Kent Oliver, Terri Luke, Jena Schmid, Susan Drye, Lee Boulie, Linda Harrison, Cassie Welch, Kyle Cook, Liz Movius, Kate Wingate, Forrest Eagle, Kate Collingwood

**Others:** Derrick Smith, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Shawn Bakker, Nashville Public Library Foundation President, Brenda Waybrant, SEIU Local 205 Metro Chapter

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

Joyce Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

**II. Metro Ordinance required to be announced at all Board Meetings – *Chair, Joyce Searcy***

“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. Public Comment**

- a. Kyle Cook, NPL employee at the Main Library [Shared Systems Department] and member of the SEIU Local 205 chapter, requests that NPL Board meetings be recorded and streamed on NPL’s YouTube channel. During the shut-down, being able to log in to the [WebEx] Board meetings was a great way to keep up with important information that affects NPL staff.
- b. Liz Movius, Teen Librarian at the Southeast Branch, and member of the SEIU Local 205 chapter, mentioned that listening to the virtual Board meetings helped her understand how to properly bring a proposal to her supervisor. Liz Movius proposed offering printing to patrons as part of curbside service. This visual access has made a huge impact in the community: over the course of the past year, NPL has been able to provide over 45,000 printed pages to over 3,500 patrons through curbside.

**IV. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy, Chair***

Joyce Searcy commented that she, Kate [Ezell], and Katy [Varney] attended the opening of the

park across the street, representing the Board at that event. She mentioned that it is time to review our Director [Kent Oliver]. She asked that everyone review the form and think about how we can improve the Library.

**V. Approval of Minutes: May 18, 2021**

Robert Oermann moved for approval of the minutes from the May meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Rand and passed unanimously.

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

- a. Mr. Oliver thanked the staff for coming to address the Board and mentioned he'll investigate how NPL might be able to get Board meetings made available for the staff and public.
- b. He introduced Linda Harrison, the new Assistant Director for Education and Literacy. She was previously the Branch Manager at Edmondson Pike.
- c. Recommended updates have been worked on, including:
  - i. In-person meetings can resume immediately, and the decision whether to return to in-person meetings will be made by NPL team leaders/managers with input from team members.
  - ii. Children's area computers and manipulatives should be available as soon as possible. Locations will provide wipes for customers to wipe down these objects before using.
  - iii. As we continue to fill vacancies, we anticipate opening the remaining branches and restoring branch evening hours by September. We are also hoping to have Friday hours for branches soon.
  - iv. NPL will begin offering in-person, indoor programming September 1.
  - v. Study rooms, currently available at Main, will become available at branches starting July 1. Branch meeting rooms will be available for public use on August 1, and branches will begin accepting reservations on July 1.
  - vi. The Conference Center will fully open to the public August 1.
  - vii. NPL will continue offering 20 free pages of printing and mobile printing to patrons.
- d. The Art Lending Library is open. Celebrations are planned at the Madison Branch Library on Monday, July 26 at 6:30 p.m. and at the Southeast Branch Library on Friday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. If art grants are extended, NPL is hoping to expand the program.
- e. Annie Herlocker will be the new Branch Manager at Bordeaux, after leaving Richland Park.

- f. Online and in-person programming numbers are good, and they're expected to continue to go up. We're monitoring the number of patrons in our building as well as rising circulation numbers.
- g. Budget Update:
  - i. After the budget presentation on May 20, Kent and Susan Drye were asked what other funding NPL needs.
  - ii. They fielded questions about Friday hours at branches and how much additional funding would be required to staff that. The Amendment (from Council Budget Chair) proposed last week included Friday hours at branches. The Mayor's Office supports Friday hours as part of their proposed budget.
  - iii. We're hoping that discussions around 4% and 5% will not further impact our Collections. If a choice needs to be made between Friday hours and continuing curbside, Friday hours are a priority, although hopefully not at the expense of our Collections.
- h. Today is Kent's birthday. Cupcakes were shared and the room sang "Happy Birthday."

**VII. Nashville Public Library Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker***

- a. Shawn thanked the Nashville Public Library staff present for attending and engaging with the Board.
- b. On behalf of Nashville Public Library Foundation, Shawn presented a copy of the book, *America's Greatest Library*, to Keith Simmons to thank him for his service to the NPL Board and the Nashville community. The book will be added to NPL's Collection in Keith's name once he's had a chance to read it.
- c. NPLF continues to plan for the Gala which will be in person this year, the weekend of November 12 and 13th. The Patrons' Party will be Friday [November 12] and the Gala will be Saturday [November 13]. Both will be held at the Main Library.
- d. Patrons of previous Galas have expressed they love learning about the Library and feeling good about their donations. With this feedback in mind, NPLF is hoping to have a docent in the Votes for Women Exhibit area and other events throughout the building so patrons can spread out and learn about other areas and services. Shawn asked the Board to please consider being involved in one or all events. This could include working or being involved in a "Behind the Scenes" tour or any involvement that would help engage long-term audiences that want to support the Library.
- e. NPLF has hired a new Director of Marketing & Communications: Megan Cole.

## **VIII. Staff Reports**

### a. Summer Reading Challenge, *Cassie Welch*

Cassie is a Children’s Librarian at the Edmondson Pike Branch and has run the Summer Reading Challenge for the past 2 years. The theme this year is “Press Play” and the challenge launched on May 3. Programs for all ages and one log for everyone. Logs are available in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Kurdish. NPL partnered with MNPS this year to coordinate with Promising Scholars since they were already registering students to read at least 20 minutes a day. The goal this year is to participate, not just register and reach a goal of minutes. There are 3 prize levels: 600, 1200, and 1800 minutes.

## **IX. New Business**

- ### a. Susan Drye presented the Library Director’s Contract for approval. The NPL Board is the administrative entity that approves the contract and the current contract expires July 1. Katy Varney moved to continue the employment of Kent Oliver and approve the Resolution [2021-06.01] found on page 32 of the Board packet; the motion was seconded by Mr. Rand and passed unanimously. The NPL Board and Kent will all sign and this contract will be a part of Mr. Oliver’s file with Metro HR. Mr. Oermann thanked Kent for his leadership along with several other Board members, especially through COVID. Kent thanked the Board and is grateful to have this Board and NPL staff.

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM.

### **Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting**

12:00 noon – July 20, 2021  
Main Library – Conference Room 1A  
615 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37219

*Respectfully submitted by Kate Collingwood.*