

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes from July 20, 2021
Main Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219
Conference Room 1A – 12:00 noon

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

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Lee Boulie, Susan Drye, Jena Schmid, Liz Atack, Klem-Mari Cajigas, Noel Rutherford, Forrest Eagle, Steve Stokes, Bernadette Hukan

Others: Derrick Smith, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Joyce Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:03 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. Board Chair Comments, Joyce Searcy, Chair

Joyce Searcy thanked NPL staff for the quick response to the request the board received last month to record NPL Library Board meetings, making them available for virtual access. Ms. Searcy thanked the Board for submitting comments and evaluations of the Director [Kent Oliver].

IV. Approval of Minutes: May 18, 2021

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

V. Library Director Report, Kent Oliver

- a. Mr. Oliver reminded the Board the next meeting will be in September at Bellevue Branch Library.
- b. He shared Ms. Searcy signed the Official Service Area Population document today. This number is based on estimates and runs low.

- c. He announced East and North Branches will reopen on July 26; Hadley Park Branch on August 23; Edgehill, Thompson Lane, and Old Hickory Branches on August 2; Richland Park Branch is expected to open sometime in mid-August. Service hours will remain abbreviated until NPL is at full capacity.
- d. Limitless Library Bookmobile Service details will be in place soon and information will be shared with the Board.
- e. A historical marker was unveiled on July 8 at Church Street Park; NPL participated in the unveiling.
- f. The Art Lending Library kickoff events are scheduled for next week: 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.
- g. The Board Retreat is scheduled for Friday, September 24. Mr. Oliver will meet with Ms. Searcy to create the retreat agenda.
- h. New Employee Orientation is taking place this week for the first time since September 2019.
- i. The Main Library's lobby is being updated to accommodate customer holds and self-check machines.
- j. A discussion about facilities will take place at both the September Board meeting and Board Retreat. NPL has better funding, but challenges exist concerning the condition of library buildings. Mr. Oliver made the board aware the Main Library courtyard fountain is leaking and the concrete eroding. NPL's team is assessing the situation.
- k. NPL's new receptionist, Zachary Santoni-Sanchez has started. Mr. Oliver added Zak is personable and efficient.

VI. Nashville Public Library Foundation Report, *Kent Oliver*

- a. Shawn Bakker was unable to attend. Mr. Oliver shared her NPLF update.
- b. Friendly Artic Printing, a Nashville-owned business, will be selling and printing our t-shirts designed by Meera Lee Patel. The 2-week Library t-shirt campaign kicked off July 16 and with shirts available for purchase [here](#).
- c. Recent awards include: First Horizon, \$15,000, NAZA; HCA Foundation, \$25,000, Unrestricted Support; Truist Foundation, \$35,000, Adult Education.

VII. Staff Reports

- a. Budget Update, *Kent Oliver*
Mr. Oliver stated the Mayor's Office and Council heard and responded positively to NPL's budgetary needs and granted the following requested modifications.

- i. Restoration of 7 FTE lost to R-12 software change.
- ii. 10 FTE for Curbside Service at 4 locations starting January 2022.
- iii. NPL Universe position.
- iv. Position upgrade for Summer Reading Challenge.
- v. Equal Access grant funded position moved under metro.
- vi. Special Collections digitization position.
- vii. 2.5 FTE for children's services at branches.
- viii. reallocation of NAZA funds for direct hire of 6 FTE.
- ix. Metro training funds restored.
- x. Marketing and Communications position to make NPL whole after Andrea Fanta was moved to Mayor's office.
- xi. Funding for Friday hours starting January 2022 at East, Edgehill, Hadley Park, Looby, North, Old Hickory, Pruitt, and Watkins Park Branches.

b. Collections Update, *Lee Boulie*

Ms. Boulie reported as of March 2021, when NPL locations reopened for in-person services, circulation of physical materials rose by 39% but digital circulation only declined by 10%. Collection trends data is used to determine how the collections budget is spent. The new fiscal year's budget has allowed a reduction in the holds ratio from 6:1 to 5:1 and the addition of the following:

- i. Lucky Day Collection resuming August 2. These are best sellers available for 14-day checkout on a first come, first served basis. Not subject to holds.
- ii. Talking Books. These children's picture books include audio of printed content.
- iii. ComicsPlus started July 1. A collection of digital comics, graphic novels, and manga available via computer, tablet, and phone.
- iv. The Conscious Child: Family Book Discussion Kits available in September. These kits celebrate diverse voices and help facilitate family discussions about equity, identity, race and justice.
- v. NY Times Online. Access begins August 27 and requires a library card and a valid email address. Also available via desktop, tablet, and mobile devices.
- vi. Press Reader available September 27. This digital resource provides access to more than 7,000 publications from over 120 countries, in 60 different languages.
- vii. Kanopy available in October. This streaming service provides access to films directly aligned with the diverse needs of communities.

viii. Blood Pressure Monitoring Kits available in October.

The Board would like to thank the individual Council members they contacted. NPLF has the information and will provide it to Board.

c. BBTL Family Literacy Coordinator and LJ Mover & Shaker, *Klem-Mari Cajigas*

Mr. Oliver introduced Klem-Mari Cajigas, the Family Literacy Coordinator for Bringing Books to Life program. Library Journal honored Ms. Cajigas in [LJ's 2021 Movers and Shakers](#). Ms. Cajigas explained when she started as Family Literacy Coordinator it became a full-time position and demand for family workshops increased because of availability and because Ms. Cajigas is bilingual. Workshops take place at schools, daycares, and community organizations across Davidson County. As Family Literacy Coordination, Ms. Cajigas affirms a parent's role as a child's first teacher and how a parent can have a positive effect on a child's literacy development. Families attending workshops receive materials and books.

VIII. New Business

a. Kent Oliver presented the Resolution of Appreciation to Mayor Cooper and Council for approval. Katy Varney moved approve the Resolution [2021-07.01] found on page 31 of the Board packet; the motion was seconded by Mr. Oermann and passed unanimously. A date will be coordinated for Mr. Oliver and Ms. Searcy, and as many other Board members as possible, to deliver a printed copy of the Resolution of Appreciate to Mayor Cooper. A copy of the resolution will also be sent to the Vice Mayor to share with Council.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

12:00 noon – September 21, 2021
Bellevue Branch Library – Meeting Room
720 Baugh Road
Nashville, TN 37221

Respectfully submitted by Bernadette Hugan.