

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
A City with a Great Library is a Great City®

LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

July 16, 2019

12:00 p.m.

Main Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Members Present: Robert Oermann, Joyce Searcy, Kate Varney, Charvis Rand

Members Absent: Keith Simmons, Lucy Haynes, Adriana Bialostozky

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Elyse Adler, Jena Schmid, Terri Luke, Felicia Wilson, Bernadette Hugan, Niq Tognoni, Michael Lusk, Forrest Eagle, Corey Frederick

Also Present: Alex Dickerson, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Steve Reiter

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Robert Oermann called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

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. Introduce Visitors

Mr. Oermann recognized Steve Reiter.

IV. Approval of Minutes: June 18, 2019

Joyce Searcy moved for approval of the minutes from the June meeting; the motion was seconded by Katy Varney and passed unanimously.

V. Library Director Report

a. Library Director, Kent Oliver

- i. Kent Oliver and Mr. Oermann welcomed Charvis Rand to the Board. Mr. Oliver noted that Mr. Rand had completed orientation for the Library Board.

- ii. The Library Board Meeting will not be held in August.
- iii. The Library Board Retreat will be held on August 8th at 12:00 p.m. at the Bellevue Branch Library with lunch provided. Mr. Oliver requested that Library Board members send agenda items for the retreat to him.

b. Budget Update, *Kent Oliver*

- i. Mr. Oliver related that NPL believed it would have its full budget back during FY1920. However, it was discovered that the library would have to accommodate an \$812,000 budget savings this fiscal year.
- ii. To confront the issue, internal meetings are being conducted to structure a plan. Moreover, current staff vacancies are not enough to meet the savings amount. Shifting personnel amongst branches is currently being considered to fill staffing needs.
- iii. Mr. Oliver will bring options to overcome this issue to the Library Board at the August 8th retreat.

VI. Staff Reports

a. Making of Momotaro, *Elyse Adler*

- i. Mr. Oermann recognized “The Queen of Happy”, Elyse Adler.
- ii. Ms. Adler praised the development of the Momotaro production as well as Wishing Chair Productions for their devotion to moving the library’s mission forward and the group’s internal priority to high quality.
- iii. A 14-minute video was shown that highlighted the creation of the Momotaro production, which was shown as part of the 3rd Annual Nashville Japan Week in cooperation with the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival.
- iv. Wishing Chair Productions plans to use Momotaro as part of its community offerings through the Puppet Truck.

b. Studio NPL Update, *Niq Tognoni*

- i. Niq Tognoni, Studio NPL Coordinator, discussed their efforts to intentionally engage with summer camps as well as teens outside of schools.
- ii. Studio NPL hosted six Opportunity Now summer interns. These MNPS high-school student interns led the MNPS Gifted Program Camp comprised of 60 students at Studio NPL.
- iii. In June, Studio NPL produced 2 camps, 20 formal programs, and 2 large outreach events.
- iv. Studio NPL surveys reported that teens involved in the department’s programming felt they obtained an increased understanding of technology tools, insight into new careers, increased academic achievement and additional soft/life skills. All survey respondents found Studio NPL valuable.

- v. Programs offered at Studio NPL ranged from coding through robots with Robothink, an open mic event called Make Music Day, a program that combines STEM and social development titled Girls, Inc., and Southern Word, an audio production and performance camp. A video clip was played to showcase samples of music made during Southern Word.
- vi. Studio NPL also hosted a documentary film camp in which teens used their cell phones and editing tools at Studio NPL to create their own documentary. Video clips from three documentaries were shown.

c. Statistical Review, *Kent Oliver & Bernadette Hujan*

- i. Mr. Oliver noted that library card sign-ups are slightly ahead of last year's numbers.
- ii. There has been a shift in dynamics concerning connectivity and public computer usage. Wireless connectivity at NPL is steadily increasing.
- iii. Volunteer statistics are steady, but circulation is trending upward. The 21% increase in circulation can be credited to automatic renewals. An analysis of circulating items revealed that patrons consistently return their items. Additional circulation increases were noted in relation to the Limitless Libraries service.
- iv. Mr. Oliver commented on the slight decrease in library programming, attributing the decline to staffing deficiencies and the necessity of covering service desks. However, programs are still generally well attended.
- v. Overall library visits are up 1% from FY1718. Some influences on the 2018 – 2019's library visit numbers are an increase in digital checkouts, the Madison Branch Library renovation, and faulty door counters at some locations. More information will be provided at the August 8th retreat.

d. Strategic Plan Update, *Kent Oliver & Bernadette Hujan*

- i. Mr. Oliver introduced Bernadette Hujan as the "Strategic Plan Puppet Master".
- ii. Mr. Oliver and Ms. Hujan discussed the "Strategic Plan FY1819 Highlights" document, noting progress the library has made based on the library's strategic map.
- iii. Katy Varney asked about the meaning of "mental health passive programming". Jena Schmid, Assistant Director for the Main Library, described the phrase as games or activities used by patrons to relax without the guidance of staff.
- iv. Mr. Oliver remarked that NPL has intentionally promoted use of its community spaces. Increases in community space usage have been reported throughout the system.
- v. Project Outcome is a free PLA tool for libraries to measure the performance of their programs and services across multiple categories. The project will help NPL to compare itself with other library systems, and it will begin during the next fiscal year.

Strategic Plan FY1819 Highlights

Goal: Engage the Community

Objective: Convene and sponsor forums for civic engagement and dialogue.

Develop and engagement project to serve residents experiencing homelessness.

- Provided 383 programs that would be of particular interest to people experiencing homelessness (80% increase)
- 1458 people participated in the programs (136% increase)
- Homelessness advisory committee met twice
- Added more mental health passive programming activities

Create programming that engages the public in contemplation and discussion of the importance of community, civility, and compassion in their daily lives.

- Provided a total of 198 Civil Rights and a Civil Society sessions/courses (69% increase) to 9,014 total attendees (37% increase)
- Hosted a Conversations@NPL presentations from Dr. Keisha Blaine and Gerry Adams, and How to Catch a Flying Woman production
- Provided programs 3 law enforcement groups; 36 corporate groups; 40 student groups; 41 university groups; and 78 community groups

Objective: Provide and promote library spaces available to individuals and groups.

Provide meeting spaces that are welcoming and meet customer needs.

- Hosted 442 events by Conference Center. (27% increase)

Promote Private Events at the Main Library.

- Hosted 12 private events. 6 weddings/receptions, 6 elopements

Public Use of Meeting Rooms

System-wide

FY19 # of mtg = 5,704 (+7.5%)

FY19 mtg att = 153,956 (+46.0%)

FY19 mtg hrs = 13,090 (+13.3%)

Main

FY19 # of mtg = 2,806 (+21.1%)

FY19 mtg att = 22,529 (+54.4%)

FY19 mtg hrs = 5,835 (+28.9%)

Branches

FY19 # of mtg = 2,898 (-3.0%)

FY19 mtg att = 131,427 (44.6%)

FY19 mtg hrs = 7,255 (+3.2%)

Goal: Promote Literacy, Reading and Learning

Objective: Expand partnerships and serve in a leadership role for citywide reading and literacy efforts.

- We are on target for partnerships/alignment/camps with 15 camps participating last summer and 660 minutes being the benchmark for individual reading time.

Goal: Increase Access for All

Objective: Offer dynamic collections that satisfy the needs of library users.

- FY1819 Circulation = 6,858,414 (+21.4%)

Goal: Foster a Culture of Excellence

Objective: Identify and collect the most important data to inform decisions and measure the results of our work.

- Project Outcome Pilot – Data collected Jan – Jun 2019.
- Analysis of Data this Fall

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

*Next Board Meeting –
12:00 noon, September 17, 2019
Main Library – Board Room
615 Church Street
Nashville TN 37219*

Respectfully submitted by Corey Frederick