

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees

October 20, 2020 meeting notes

WebEx – 12:00 p.m.

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

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Bernadette Hukan, Elyse Adler, Terri Luke, Susan Drye, Jena Schmid, Lee Boulie, Larry Jirik (WebEx support), Kate Collingwood

Also Present: Derrick Smith, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tyson Moore, Nashville Public Library Foundation Board Chair, Shawn Bakker, Nashville Public Library Foundation President, Juli Mosley, Margaret Behm, Jeanie Nelson

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting started at 12:04 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. 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.”

Robert Oermann moved to approve conducting the meeting by electronic means and suspending rules; the motion was seconded by Charvis Rand and passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes: September 15, 2020

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

V. Votes for Women Update, *Kent Oliver*

- a) Kent asked everyone to recognize Juli [Mosley], Margaret [Behm], and Jeanie [Nelson] for their work on the VFW room and their sincere passion for the project. Kent virtually presented each of them with a framed piece of art in appreciation. Juli asked to thank the whole staff at NPL for their work as well.

VI. Library Director Report, *Kent Oliver*

a) General Report

- i. The Southern Festival of Books happened a couple of weeks ago and NPL hosted some virtual events.
- ii. In the Board packet, please note the number of items being moved each month. The Delivery team is moving a huge number of materials every day and moved over 375,000 items last month. We have a great Delivery team here at NPL and they are making curbside happen.
- iii. The tax referendum petition has been referred to Chancery Court and we are hoping to have decision on 11/3. Mr. Oliver is working with Susan Drye on specific budget reductions. If this goes to ballot, Mr. Oliver asks that we have an NPL Board meeting in November for decisions around recommended reductions.
- iv. Andrea Fanta has been borrowed by the Mayor's Office while their staff member is on paternity leave.
- v. Mr. Oliver would like to move forward into Phase 1.5 on 11/9/20 for a few select locations. The team feels that there are enough PPEs and protocols in place to begin this phase. Many libraries are having staff enter buildings with patrons. NPL would like to provide online resources to the community.
- vi. There have been no issues yet during early voting.
- vii. Elyse Adler has turned in her retirement date which is 12/4/20. She has worked at the library a very long time and she has been invaluable.

b) 2021 Board Meeting Dates

As an item of information, Mr. Oliver asked everyone to review the 2021 Board Meeting dates and locations on page 5 of the Board report. These are projected locations in the hopes that meetings will be in person in 2021.

VII. Staff Reports

a) NAZA 10 Year Celebration, *Elyse Adler*

NAZA celebrated its 10th anniversary with over 160 attendees at a virtual event that included 14 elected officials (8 Council members (2 at-large), 4 School Board members, the Mayor and Congressman Cooper) and number of national partners from New York, Boston and Providence. Over the last 10 years, NAZA directly served over 15,000 kids and with over 20 partners. NAZA restructured from 5 zones to 1 system over the last 5 years to be more effective and efficient.

b) NPL's support of MNPS Report, *Elyse Adler*

NPL is supporting MNPS in lots of ways. Elyse will email the document with the complete list to the Board. NPL is providing virtual professional development and training for teachers and families/caregivers of students. Story times are available virtually (prerecorded and live on Facebook), staff have filmed our puppet shows, and playlists have been created to provide STEAM programming for teachers and students. Be Well at NPL offers mental and physical health programs and resources. There are Digital Inclusion playlists for online resources including Digital Safety Online and Security Help and staff are pushing out Telehealth resources. Staff have created virtual fieldtrips so people can still “come” to the library. Collection Development and Limitless Libraries have reallocated funds to purchase more online materials. The “Book a Librarian” service is available for online or phone call help.

c) General Survey Results, *Elyse Adler*

NPL wanted to survey the community to make sure we are still meeting the needs of the public during the stay-at-home order. We created a short survey that was posted and printed and added to curbside materials for 2 weeks. During this 2-week period, we received 1,288 total responses. 78% said that we are meeting their needs. Patrons want to come back into NPL's buildings when it is safe, but there is now also a whole new virtual world to continue. The results of this survey were mostly positive, but next time we need to find away to reach the under 35 age groups and more varying demographics.

d) Elyse will share Education and Literacy's year-end summaries with the Board.

VIII. New Business

a) Resolution Closing Sunday, December 26, 2021, *Susan Drye*

Susan Drye presented a resolution to update NPL's annual holiday schedule. It was proposed that the NPL holiday schedule be updated to include NPL being closed Sunday, December 26th for consistency in 2021 and in perpetuity if the Christmas Holiday falls on a Saturday.

Charvis Rand moved to approve the resolution; Katy Varney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

December 8, 2020

Location: TBD

Respectfully submitted by Kate Collingwood.