

**Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes from October 25, 2021**  
**Main Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219**  
**Conference Room 1A – 12:00 noon**

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

**Library Staff:** Kent Oliver, Lee Boulie, Jena Schmid, Chinedu Ameafula, Forrest Eagle, Patrick Phongsa, Kate Rose 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**

Katy Varney called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

**II. Metro Ordinance required to be announced at all Board Meetings – *Vice Chair, Katy Varney***

“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. Approval of Minutes: September 21, 2021, September 17, 2021 NECAT Study Session, and September 24 Retreat Study Session**

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

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

- a. Mr. Oliver thanked Kate Collingwood for all the special Board notes she took last month; she did a great job.
- b. The room welcomed NPL’s new Special Collections Manager, Chinedu Ameafula. Mr. Ameafula mentioned that he goes by “Chi” and that he was happy to be at NPL.
- c. Today marks the day that all branches are back open — it’s been since March 2020. There are small celebrations happening throughout the system today.
- d. The next Board meeting is December 14, combining November and December dates.

- e. Mr. Oliver asked everyone to review the 2022 Board meeting dates and locations on page 12 of the board packet.
- f. NECAT
  - i. NPL is continuing to work through this process with Lee Boulie and MTSU, clarifying the agreement between ITS, funding streams, and equipment maintenance. The draft agreement is evolving, and Kent is hoping to have something ready for the Board to review sometime next month. The inter-departmental letter of agreement will clearly state where the funding is coming from, will outline the (maximum of three years) expectations of the NECAT Board, and include still to be determined escape clauses.
  - ii. At this point in the discussions, NPL will be responsible for all three channels. The content on two of the channels may be developed through NPL with assistance from MTSU. NPL will manage coordination of the programming piece and the Studio.
  - iii. NPL will monitor channel content by applying similar criteria that used for existing library programming. NPL will have access to metrics regarding the programming and audience numbers.
- g. NPLF Early Literacy Campaign
  - i. Shawn Bakker presented that NPLF has been in conversation with Mr. Oliver, Linda Harrison, and Liz Atack about addressing early literacy (0–5 years old) and making an impact on a larger scale. Early conversations are now happening, connecting key players in the space to devise a more focused, city-wide approach. Only 1 out of 4 third graders are reading on grade level and NPLF/NPL believes that the work needs to start at birth instead of waiting.
  - ii. The Blueprint is now with the United Way. It was determined that NPL was leading two of the seven pillars.
  - iii. NPLF is hoping to invest time and funding to support NPL in making this happen by creating an endowment for early literacy that will always be there. Potential funding sources have already been identified and they are working with benchmarks and scaling it with concrete numbers going forward.
  - iv. The whole plan is still being worked out, but the vision is a phased approach starting with funding an initial, independent study to analyze NPL's existing program and work.
  - v. Mr. Oliver suggested that Liz Atack present at a future meeting about what NPL is currently doing around early literacy.
  - vi. Part of this project could include adding a staff person to help support this work.

- vii. NPLF hasn't found another city that has figured this issue out. The model could look like a Limitless Libraries for children from 0–5 to ensure a robust library collection for each center and possibly homes.
- viii. The Board asked NPLF and NPL to define the target audiences and consider how can NPL can reach them all. How can we teach parents how to teach and share books with their children? What can we pilot? How can we measure success? There are bilingual spaces and many other spaces to consider. This is a huge undertaking, and all agreed that there needs to be a clear plan to prevent NPL's work around this being another stand-alone "silo."

h. Advocacy

NPL received a Capital Spending Plan funding recommendation from the Mayor's Office to Council in the amount of \$9M for infrastructure and repairs. \$5M is for Main and \$4M is earmarked for branches.

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

NPLF is preparing for the Gala on November 13 and there are limited tickets left. 10 gala tickets are left, 40 patron party tickets, and only 100 Public Lecture tickets are left. Shawn asked that everyone help get the word out to all networks. The Public Lecture is hosted at MLK and capacity is set at 50%. The event is free, but reserving a ticket is necessary.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.

**Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting**

12:00 noon – December 14, 2021

Main Library

615 Church Street

Nashville, TN 37219

*Respectfully submitted by Kate Rose Collingwood.*