

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes from February 15, 2022
Bordeaux Branch Library
4000 Clarksville Pike, Nashville, TN 37218
12:00 noon

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

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Susan Drye, Terri Luke, Linda Harrison, Jena Schmid, Annie Herlocker, Chad L'eplattener, Corey Frederick, Alessia Moussa, Marian Christmon, Poppy Steele, Forrest Eagle, Hannah Gerst, and Emily Kriebel

Others: Matthew Garth, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Shawn Bakker, Nashville Public Library Foundation President, and Alonzo Rose, Jr., Intern at Belmont University

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call
 - a. Joyce Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.
- II. Metro Ordinance required to be announced at all Board Meetings – *Chair, Joyce Searcy*
 - a. “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*
 - a. Ms. Searcy introduced Alonzo Rose, Jr., a freshman at Big Picture High School who is currently interning at Belmont. She also congratulated the library for receiving the Urban Libraries Innovation Award.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2021
 - a. **Robert Oermann moved for approval of the minutes; the motion was seconded by Katy Varney and passed unanimously.**
- V. Library Director Report, *Kent Oliver*
 - a. Mr. Oliver announced that an amendment was adopted in the Tennessee’s Assembly’s Senate Budget and Finance Committee to add \$1.5 million in one-time funding for Tennessee libraries. There will be \$3 million total with the existing \$1.5

million in reoccurring funds to split between the four libraries with NPL receiving almost \$1 million. He also spoke about the current book challenges happening in the state and some proposed bills. Most of the bills involve school libraries, which could affect service to MNPS through Limitless Libraries.

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

- a. Ms. Bakker reminded the board that the library gives tours that highlight the services and programs NPL provides.

VII. Staff Reports

a. Bordeaux Branch Update, *Annie Herlocker*

- i. Ms. Herlocker has been with NPL for 6 years and the manager of Bordeaux since July 2021. Last summer and fall, the branch connected with the Mayor's Office to serve as a Participatory Budget voting site to help the residents of North Nashville decide how they wanted to spend the \$2 million that was set aside for this area. This was a great way to get the community into the library. Ms. Herlocker mentioned several reorganization projects happening at the branch to refresh their collection and increase circulation numbers. Bordeaux has lower circulation, but higher meeting room use. Ms. Herlocker has been reaching out to organizations using the meeting room to collaborate and build partnerships.
- ii. Katy Varney suggested setting up displays in the meeting room to boost circulation.

b. Entrepreneur Mindset, *Corey Frederick, Chad L'eplattenier, and Aleisa Moussa*

- i. Mr. L'eplattenier explained the goal of NPL Means Business is to "create a more diverse and motivated entrepreneurial eco-system in Nashville with the library being an essential player in helping Nashville's citizens discover and realize their dream business." Currently, 95% of US businesses are micro-businesses and over 4 million businesses were started during the first year of the pandemic.
- ii. Mr. Fredrick has reached out to community groups and organizations to partner with NPL Means Business. Belmont University has agreed to lead classes on the ICE House courses. There is high interest from the community in these classes, with 63 people signed up, but only 12 cohort spots available.

- iii. Ms. Moussa noted the large range of people interested in the course, from retirees to sophomores in college.
- iv. Charvis Rand asked if the course required any prerequisites. Mr. Frederick explained that the ICE House course acts as a precursor to other entrepreneurial courses. It is a free course open to anyone.
- c. Digital Inclusion and Telehealth, *Marian Christmon*
 - i. Ms. Christmon thanked the board for their kind words and their congratulations. She explained how the program was created, and how MDHA surveyed residents to start the process. Comcast reached out to NPL and provided 250 laptops and free internet for the program, while a grant received from the State library funded 2 part-time educators. The program started in January of 2021 and should finish in April of 2022.
- d. Equal Access Update, *Poppy Steele*
 - i. Ms. Steele informed the board of a new, nationwide database that will launch called AskSandy. The database will help patrons find services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in each state. She expects this database will go live in June 2022.
 - ii. Ms. Steele also spoke about the Deaf Literacy Initiative, which brings together over 70 professionals, parents, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to discuss concerns and solutions. This coalition works to find and improve the literacy rates in Tennessee.
 - iii. Susan Drye asked about the difference between Oral and Signing. Ms. Steele explained that Oral Deaf is when a person has cochlear implants and learns to speak but does not sign. Signing Deaf is when a person's first language is ASL.
- e. Library Security, *Susan Drye*
 - i. Due to time constraints, Ms. Drye's updates regarding Library Security will be tabled until the next board meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

12:00 noon – March 15, 2022

Main Library

615 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37219

Respectfully submitted by Emily Krieble