

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting
Minutes from April 12, 2022
Main Library
615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219
1:00 p.m.

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

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Lee Boulie, Linda Harrison, Terri Luke, Andrea Fanta, Susan Drye, Sherry Adams, Jena Schmid, Shawn Bakker, James Staub, Libby Cain, Forrest Eagle, Hannah Gerst, and Emily Kriebel

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. Joyce Searcy called the meeting to order at 1:05 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. Personnel Business

- a. Ms. Searcy announced that Kent Oliver has submitted his resignation to the Library Board. She thanked Mr. Oliver for his decade of service to NPL.
- b. Mr. Oliver expressed his gratitude to the board. He is very proud of NPL and the positive impact the library has in the Nashville community. He will retire on July 22, 2022.
- c. Ms. Varney thanked Mr. Oliver for his service and reflected on NPL’s growth during his tenure as Director. Mr. Oliver started at NPL in 2012, and in the past 10 years, NPL has expanded adult literacy to include digital and health literacy. NPL was voted Library of the Year in 2017. Limitless Libraries grew from 16 schools to 155 schools, and NPL completed major construction on four branches as well as the Children’s Department at Main. Ms. Varney praised Mr. Oliver for his commitment to intellectual freedom and stated that he will be missed.

- d. Mr. Oermann commended Mr. Oliver for his service, stating that he led the library through tough times. Mr. Oliver explained that he could not lead as well without the support of staff.
- e. Mr. Rand explained that under Mr. Oliver's leadership, the NPL became not just a building, but a movement. He thanked Mr. Oliver for his level-headedness and his leadership.
- f. The board thanked Mr. Oliver for his years of wonderful service and leadership.
- g. **Keith Simmons motioned to accept Kent Oliver's letter of resignation; the motion was seconded by Katy Varney and passed unanimously.**
- h. Mr. Simmons explained the process of finding a new Library Director. The board will submit a Request for Proposals to Metro Procurement to find a search company. This company will advertise and help find candidates for the board to then interview. Mr. Simmons noted that the first step will be to talk to the Mayor's Office and Metro Legal, but that the board needs to authorize
- i. **Robert Oermann motioned to authorize the Chair to work with Metro Procurement on a Request for Proposals for a search company; the motion was seconded by Charvis Rand and passed unanimously.**

IV. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting
April 19, 2022
Madison Branch Library
610 Gallatin Pike South, Madison, TN 37115
12:00 noon

Respectfully submitted by Emily Kriebel