



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Springfield City Library Board of Commissioners**

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**Place:** Central Library Community Room

**Date:** March 6, 2019

**Attending:** Stephen Cary, Matthew Reilly, Krysta Fyntrilakis, and Clodo Concepcion

**Absent:** David Maynard, Tim Moriarty, and Meghan Lunghi

**Staff:** Molly Fogarty, Library Director  
Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director for Public Services  
Carol Leaders, Business Manager  
Jamillah Vernon, Community Relations Coordinator

**Presentations:** Matthew Blumenfeld, Promise Realized Campaign  
Sara Deignan, Children’s Librarian- Tech Discovery

**Call to order:** Mr. Cary called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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**1. Approval of Minutes from the January 2, 2019 Library Commission Meeting** Approval of Minutes: The February 6, 2019 minutes Motion by Commissioner Reilly to approve the minutes; Second by Commissioner Fyntrilakis Motion Passed.

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**2. Presentation** Capital Campaign presentation by Matthew Blumenfeld.  
2 major events coming up that are geared toward helping the library reach its official goal of \$2million raised.  
The first is on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the MLK Charter School. Rev. McFadden & Dora Robinson have planned an event for the Promise Realized Campaign to talk to the community about the construction of the East Forest Park branch and the opportunity to be a part of the fundraising through the “Buy-A-Brick” campaign. There are bricks available for sale that will be used in the EFP Gazebo area. Each brick is selling for \$100 and can be engraved with 3-4 lines.  
The second is the Fundraising Gala Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> with honoree, Congressman Richard E. Neal. This event will create donation opportunities in the form of ticket sales, corporate underwriting and naming opportunities.  
Ongoing grant writing continues.  
There will be an opening ceremony in November and a donor reveal in December

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### 3. Chairman's Report

Confirmation of Congressman Richard Neal for Gala  
Commissioner Cary discusses ideas around how to get groups to come together and donate in recognition of past teams, coaches etc...meanwhile, thinking of ways to collect smaller donations. Have the politicians, TV hosts, Ms. Fogarty or Ms. Caulton- Harris be guest bartenders working for tips as donations.  
The Carnegie impersonator from years prior was a success.  
Developing a Foundation Board  
The said board would be in charge of sponsoring an annual event. This upcoming October could be the start of an annual event.

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### 4. Director's Report

#### **Updates from Jean Canosa Albano:**

Upcoming Reading Success 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Press Conference with Mayor Sarno

at 10 AM, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Mason Square Branch. The Davis Foundation & Mayor Sarno will announce they will be giving a grant for the Springfield Library to take over. There is a plan in place to hire a Reading Success Manager to run the program working with caregivers, parents and students.

The Long-Range Planning Steering Committee met yesterday (3/5) at Brightwood branch to talk about working together and getting a list of reports, studies & data sources for each member to select, analyze and report to the group. These documents included the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, The Edge Report, Rethink Study, Aspen Institute Study etc.

This work is being confirmed as beneficial and will help build off of previous plan. The library achieved everything from the ReThink plan (including extended hours and more open hours)

Ms. Fogarty explains that the value of the library materials borrowed represents ~\$6.7 million

#### **Updates from Director, Molly Fogarty:**

Construction on EFP is moving along great despite the weather. Meeting on 3/7 at 11 AM about final furnishing approvals.

Central Library is moving along. Pavers are being installed, with stairs and patio visible. Still figuring out the stair solution, which is keeping it on pause. (\$300k issue and cure for 100 year problem) still on target for May completion. Scaffolding is coming down. As a part of a city effort to upgrade lighting to LED, 70% of the building is getting lighting changed out. (\$100k)

Mason Square Branch Discovery Garden date has been moved to May.

During National Library Week, on April 10<sup>th</sup> there will be open houses at every branch from 2-4 PM



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The Penny drive to collect money for EFP branch has been moved to the first two weeks of May. Four schools will be involved (Dryden, Harris, Pope Francis & St. Michaels.) Each school will get an engraved brick for their participation.

Met with Attorney Talia Gee, Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Springfield. Ms. Gee will be meeting with the Leadership Team to introduce herself and seek input on where to help with recruitment, hiring staff that speak more than English, problems with recruitment & retention, hoping to grow clerical staff to holders of MLS degrees and training for interviewing skills.

Strategic Planning with Consultant Maureen Sullivan- funded by the library foundation is in process..

Formed a steering committee by nominations, which allows for the Director to step back and let the staff run it. Ms. Sullivan will be attending the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to work with the Library Commission to revise the Library Mission Statement, review the current the mission statement, current strategic plan, vision & values. Members of the steering committee are also invited.

Hosting a staff forum April 9<sup>th</sup> to remain transparent and to engage input from all the staff.

June Commission meeting will include a draft of strategic plan for editing. It will be finalized over the summer and presented in September revised. It must be signed off on so that it can be submitted to the Massachusetts Library Board of Commissioners in October. (If we don't submit by 10/1 we won't qualify to apply for ISTA grants. Last plan was 2011-2016 & extended to 2019)

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### 5. Other Business

Commissioner Clodo Concepcion

Followed up about last meetings inquiries with Bill Mahoney. He was sent the union contracts which explain disciplinary procedures & he expressed his content with the findings.

Mr. Concepcion offered a suggestion that the names of the Commissioners should be somewhere listed in each library.

Also proposed moving the Commission meeting to Sixteen Acres.

Commissioner Cary suggests that this can be discussed at the next meeting when more Commissioners are present.

Mr. Cary was approached by Councilor Jesse Lederman who is working with Councilor Marcus Williams on a plan to make Springfield walkable again. They are forming a committee and word should be out from City Council within the next few weeks.

My-Ron Hatchett & Chris Cignoli are working together on traffic safety issues on Surrey road for the new East Forest Park Branch.



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Mr. Concepcion is also the chairman of the Traffic commission and offers his service to talk with Mr. Cignoli during their upcoming (3/11) meeting about possible crosswalks and signs.  
Commissioner Fyntrilakis brings up the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indian Orchard branch on March 18<sup>th</sup>  
She also mentioned that there was a great article in the Point of View that mentions the Library and its free functions.  
She also proposed the question as to where ads on WGBY about the DVD Collection came from.

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**6. Presentation**

Sara Deignan- Tech Discovery & STEM Programs for ages 8-12  
Ms. Deignan shared the types of gaming options she offers to youth ie. Minecraft/Roadblocks that became very popular and overloaded & the new ways she found to run the program. She discussed the LSTA STEM Grant- specifically for libraries she used to purchase snap circuits, coding & engineering kits. Each week at her Tech discovery program she offers a different focus and allows the children to check out kits, which has been a success.  
She has brought forth a lot of 'Girls who Code' books to continue to encourage young girls interested in STEM and is developing community partnerships with local schools.  
She's found many teaching moments working with the children and sees a lot of leaders developing as they learn and then help teach others.

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**7. - Executive Session**

Not needed.

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**8. Adjournment**

Chair, Stephen Cary, adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

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, *Secretary*