



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

Place: Central Library Community Room

Date: April 3, 2019

Attending: Stephen Cary, Matthew Reilly, David Maynard, Tim Moriarty, and Meghan Lunghi

Absent: Krysta Fyntrilakis, Clodo Concepcion

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

Presentations: Maureen Sullivan, Organizational Consultant

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

1. Approval of Minutes from the January 2, 2019 Library Commission Meeting There was no approval of the minutes, due to lack of quorum. Approval moved to May 1st meeting.

2. Presentation by Maureen Sullivan Introduction of the staff-driven steering committee as opposed to a planning committee...The more the staff can be engaged, the more they will implement the Strategic Plan when the time comes. Staff is knowledgeable about the community. Introduction of Ellen Sulzycki , Nate Martinez, Jamillah Joy Vernon & Jean Canosa Albano as members of the Steering Committee. Working on getting the voice of the community heard, staff involvement & promising practices rather than best practices. The steering committee has committed to meet in different branches throughout the process. From a personal perspective: The group has really come together through their work in two months' time. Steering committee has created a community survey and a staff survey. The community survey is currently circulating in print and is online.

Invitation for comments on the current mission



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Commissioner Cary stated that it's a great idea to meet at different branches for community input.

Commissioner Moriarty pointed out that we are an immigrant city and there are hopes to have the survey circulate farther than just the library so that people get a chance to understand what the library has to offer for free. 50-70 languages are spoken in this city.

Commissioner Reilly proposed the question: Is doing less *well* better than doing more and not as well? The tighter the plan the better.

Mission- Describes the purpose of the organization- memorable, & brief.

Ms. Fogarty points out that the previous mission statement was a paragraph and then it was shortened so it was easy to remember and say.

Vision- A statement of what we aspire to be whether its 3 or 5 years down the road

In 3 -5 years down the road library should be known for celebrating etc.

Mr. Reilly points out that some of the mission & values are broad but that the vision "Celebrating community, culture & history" represents the city well. It was suggested that **programs and events** are added because they are the core to what the library does. The events put on are just as important as lending items and shows how much more is offered.

Commissioner Maynard suggested the vision needs to be more visionary and written in a way where we can see more outcomes. It would nice to have goals to aspire to and gage.

Safety net and a safe haven

The staff is meeting the social needs in the community.

Programming and curation are strategically chosen to target certain areas in tandem with the mission.

How a library anticipates what's coming for the city.

A Value- A core principal. Can be expressed in one word or a phrase.

What else can be added?

A trusted resource or source. When facts matter.

Adaptable

Diversity inclusion celebrating the mosaic that is Springfield

Commits to constantly & continuously improving



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We come back to the mission and values to position ourselves when things are changing.

Ms. Fogarty stated that the library is in a wonderful place to build on aspirational visions, goals & values.

Close with suggestions on what to give attention to during the planning process

- Pay attention to the fact that diversity and inclusion aren't directly mentioned. Pay homage.
- There may be so many communities that aren't using the source because they don't know what the library offers.
- Verified information & trustworthy information in a time of fake news.
- Earnest pursuit of learning things...deep commitment to authentication of information. "debunking" value.

Steering committee question & answer about the process and their thoughts on the process thus far.

A draft of the new Strategic plan will be presented to the Commissioners at the June 5th meeting.

**3. Commission
Committee Reports**

N/A

4. Director's Report

Updates from Director, Molly Fogarty:

Construction site visit last week and did a walk around. At about 40% completion. Consultants will come back at 75% and that will be in July. Matthew Blumenfeld is looking to show potential donors the space for naming opportunities.

Capital campaign

- Event for October 4th.
- Kiwanis club meeting \$2500 check
- Meeting with Mayor Sarno, Blumenfeld etc.- here we are, we need your help. We need more funders.
- East Forest Park Civic Association meeting next week to give an update to the community. Ms. Fogarty, Ms. Canosa-Albano, Matt Blumenfeld and My-Ron Hatchett will attend.
- Kicking off Buy-a-Brick campaign
- Currently identifying traffic problems at East Forest Park, which includes getting a crosswalk from Quaker Rd across Surrey Rd. Also, going to the traffic commission to get No parking signs for the north side and moving the school sign to include library



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- Completion date for Central Library is estimated at June 17th
- Ms. Fogarty is currently working on 3 Community Preservation grants: \$250k to restore ceiling at FP; \$150K for EFP for the Children’s Story Garden
- \$75k for Central Library to restore the historical lights on the State St. staircase.
- Mayor’s Budget hearing 3/14- additional request 75k for more staffing. Full time digital services librarian part time clerk and 10 hour page for the East Forest Park Branch.
- Requested Funding for Read Write Now
- Mayor’s recommended budget will be available by the end of April. City Council hearings will take place late May or early June.
- 3 retirements, 4 internal promotions and 2 leaving- leaves 9 open vacancies and all city jobs are on hold at this time. Looking to get a few approved and posted in the next couple weeks.
- Substitute librarians and overtime is keeping the library in good shape.
- May 1st meeting looking to have better news regarding our vacancies.
- Revision of safe child policy will be discussed at the May 1 meeting.

Updates from Jean Canosa Albano:

- Press event for Reading Success 4th Grade- Thank you Focus Springfield, Commissioner Moriarty and Commissioner Lunghi for coming. We are currently searching for someone to fill the Reading Success Manager position.
- Focus Springfield also came through for My Beloved Springfield. It’s a great partnership.
- Lots of homework with the steering committee. Monthly reports out to staff.
- Big Y in East Longmeadow has chosen us to receive \$1 for every bag sold for the month of April.

5. Other Business

N/A

6. - Executive Session

Not needed.

7. Adjournment

Chair, Stephen Cary, adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.



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, *Secretary*