



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

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**Place:** Zoom Online

**Date:** December 1, 2021

**Attending:** Stephen Cary, Tim Moriarty, Meghan Lunghi, Krysta Fyntrilakis, Matthew Reilly,

**Absent:** Clodo Concepcion, David Maynard,

**Staff:** Molly Fogarty, Library Director  
Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director  
Jamillah Vernon, Community Relations Coordinator

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m.

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**1. Approval of Minutes from the September 1, 2021 , October 6, 2021 and November 3 , 2021 Library Commission Meetings**

September 1, 2021 Minutes...Commissioner Moriarty moves to accept minutes. Commissioner Lunghi seconds. Roll Call Vote... Commissioner Fyntrilakis did not attend the September 1 meeting,. Commissioner Reilly votes yes, Commissioner Lunghi, yes, Commissioner Moriarty, yes, Commissioner Cary, yes... Minutes Approved

October 6, 2021 Minutes... Commissioner Fyntrilakis moves to accept minutes. Commissioner Moriarty seconds. Roll Call Vote... Commissioner Moriarty votes yes, Commissioner Fyntrilakis votes yes, Commissioner Reilly votes yes, Commissioner Lunghi did not attend the October 6 meeting. Commissioner Cary votes yes... Minutes Approved.

November 3, 2021 Minutes... Commissioner Fyntrilakis moves to accept minutes. Commissioner Moriarty seconds. ... Roll Call Vote... Commissioner Moriarty votes yes, Commissioner Fyntrilakis votes yes, Commissioner Reilly votes yes, Commissioner Lunghi votes yes. Commissioner Cary votes yes... Minutes Approved.

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**2.Commission Committee Reports**

**3. Chairman's Report**

The elimination of library overdue fines is close to approval. Once certain paperwork is submitted, the Mayor will be ready to sign off on it. The pavers at East Forest Park Branch Library are being installed. Garden centers are likely to be a partner to help spruce up the other branches in the Spring. Concert to be broadcasted out of East Forest Park tomorrow night (December 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**4. Director's Report**

Director Fogarty takes a minute to acknowledge the loss of Gayle Ball and the major impact it's had on the staff, especially Tech Processing. There have been 3 rounds of grief counseling available to staff. Commissioner Moriarty

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asks if there has been talk about a memorial. The staff has said they want to have a candlelight vigil before the end of the year, we have a few other suggestions as well. We will work with the staff .

Commissioner Fyntrilakis asks if the Director has met with Mayor Sarno regarding this issue?

Mayor Sarno came to the Central Library on November 12 to give his condolences. We are trying to set up a meeting for next week to discuss some possible outcomes. Commissioner Cary and Kay Simpson from the Springfield Museums will be present. Commissioner Cary attended a City Council Subcommittee meeting to discuss the State St. safety issues. DPW Director Chris Cignoli also attended the meeting. Director Cignoli is waiting for the results of a Traffic Study. Commissioner Cary will be advocating for speed bumps and contacting Mass DOT. Commissioner Moriarty says that there was a vigil and memorial event at the Central Library recently in memory of the recent pedestrian and bicycle rider accident deaths in Springfield. City Councilor Lederman attended the event.

Commissioner Cary suggests that the Library Commission establishes a sub-committee to follow up on the safety issue for Central Library staff and patrons crossing State St. to the State St. Parking lot. Commissioner Reilly and Commissioner Fyntrilakis volunteer to be on this sub-committee.

Commissioner Reilly says, in regards to State Street area, that it is very dark, at minimum new lighting should be put in.

Commissioner Fyntrilakis says there is a lot of Federal and State funding coming into Springfield, and it is important that the library looks at that funding the assistance needed for staff and patron safety.

Commissioner Reilly asks Director Fogarty if she can ask for lighting. The Director responds she can add it to already sent requests, but the study that has taken place will have recommendations already on them. We will review the study to see if it includes lighting upgrades.

Director Fogarty suggests an Island in between lanes where people can wait  
Commissioner Reilly asks is the walk to the light iced and who maintains those sidewalks.

Commissioner Cary says there will be more information after next week's City Council meeting that will help anyone who wants to join in on the subcommittee.

Commissioner Moriarty says we should let staff know that the hearings are happening so they can be a voice.

Jean Canosa Albano includes that some staff want to be involved and some are still traumatized so we will keep that in mind when moving forward.

Commissioner Cary asks Director Fogarty & Jean Canosa Albano to help guide them in how to spread the information with respect to staff concerns.

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Director Fogarty announced that TSM started installing new signage in the Teen Room and Wellman and Rice Hall have updates coming.

The Library Foundation had their annual meeting on November 17. Director Fogarty submitted a proposal to the Library Foundation to use \$50,000 from the Brogan Endowment to upgrade the Wellman Hall area where currently magazines, newspapers and microfiche and readers are located.. A naming opportunity recommendation will be brought to the Library Commission by the Library Foundation in the Spring.

Director Fogarty has been working with the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and Assistant City Solicitor, Kathy Breck on contract language which will assure the CPC that if there is an addition to the current East Springfield Branch Library at any time in the future that impacts the CPA project, the City will repay those funds to the CPC. Funding in the amount of \$85,500 was approved for FY22. The new contract language will be discussed at the December CPC meeting.

ARPA Funding: City Departments received a request from TJ Plante to submit their ARPA funding priorities. The Library Department submitted the following requests:

New HVAC system for the Central Library.(\$11.5 million)

East Springfield Branch Library renovation and addition (\$3.6 million)

Forest Park Branch request for new HVAC system ,2 new ADA bathrooms on the main level and upgrading the community room. (\$240,000)

Phone system replacements for Sixteen Acres Branch, East Springfield Branch and Indian Orchard Branch . (\$75,000)

Community Room AV upgrades for the Central Library, Mason Square, Brightwood and Forest Park .(\$79,077)

The Director's Office is pleased to announce that we have hired a new Business Manager, Aieshya Jackson. Ms. Jackson will start on December 6.

Commissioner Fyntrilakis inquired about the Outreach Van.

Director Fogarty says it is on order, supposed to arrive in January. TSM designed the wrap for it, so once it is customized and inspected, the library can start using it. It will be parked at DPW.

Commissioner Cary stated that he has met the artists who built free library boxes for Pynchon Park and asked how the library will be involved with supplying books for them. Jean Canosa Albano has an upcoming meeting with Karen Finn. We have money from a grant to buy new books, and we will also use donated and books that have been weeded from our collection.

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**6. New/ Other  
Business-**

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**7. Executive Session**      Not Needed

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**8. Adjournment**          **6:28 PM**

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