



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

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**Place:** Zoom Online

**Date:** January 5, 2022

**Attending:** Stephen Cary, Tim Moriarty, Meghan Lunghi, Krysta Fyntrilakis, David Maynard,

**Absent:** Clodo Concepcion, Matthew Reilly

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

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m.

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**1. Approval of Minutes from the December Library Commission Meetings** December 1, 2021 Minutes...Commissioner Fyntrilakis moves to accept minutes. Commissioner Lunghi seconds. Roll Call Vote... Commissioner Fyntrilakis votes yes, Commissioner Moriarty, yes, Commissioner Lunghi, yes, Commissioner Cary, yes... Minutes Approved

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**2. Commission Committee Reports**

**3. Chairman's Report** Commissioner Cary reports that the library handed out 40,000 rapid tests over 4 days which is unbelievable. He is still working on eliminating overdue fines by February.  
Commissioner Cary recorded a live holiday concert in the East Forest Park Community Room as a virtual program. The Concert was offered by the Suzuki Talent Education Partnership and can still be viewed on the Library's Facebook and Instagram .

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**4. Director's Report** Director Fogarty addresses the plan set forth by DPW Director Chris Cignoli concerning the Central Library State St. crossing safety and crosswalk proposal. The plan recommends reducing State St. to two lanes near the Library with a pedestrian island in the middle including traffic lights, a potential Hawk system and a raised crosswalk. The location of the crosswalk won't be directly where the driveways are for safety reasons and will be about 8-10 ft. east of the driveways, closer to St. Michael's Church and the Classical Condominiums.  
The timeline is to test the plan by setting up barrels which will define the area in March to see how it affects the flow of travel and pedestrian safety. Based on the results , construction will begin in the summer with completion by the Fall.

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The estimated cost for this project is \$750,000. Going forward it will be a much safer way to cross for patrons and staff. There were a lot of Springfield residents and officials who lobbied for this to happen.

Director Fogarty attended the December 7<sup>th</sup> Community Preservation Committee to finalize the contract with the CPC for the East Springfield outdoor reading and meeting space. The revisions to the Contract were based on recommendations by Deputy City Solicitor Attorney Kathy Breck. The City council discussed the revisions to the Contract at their December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The City Council accepted the revision to the contract and approved the \$85,000 CPC grant for the Library. The Contract revision stipulated that the City will pay back the \$85,000 to the CPC in the event that there is an addition to the East Springfield Branch which impacts the work funded by the Grant.

The Library did get approved for the Mass Board of Library Commissioners State Aid program in the amount of \$413,704. It is a 25% increase from the previous year.

The distribution of rapid at-home COVID test kits at all 9 Library locations took place on December 21<sup>st</sup>, December 22, January 4 and January 5. Library staff were asked by HHS to record addresses and zip codes. There were lines at all of our locations of people waiting to pick up their free tests. Staff was concerned about safety and the City supplied K-N95 masks for them to be used during the test distributions. Branches reported signing up numerous people for new library cards as well. 40,000 tests were given out. HHS will be distributing the test kits at a variety of locations and times, yet to be determined.

Due to the current surge of the virus, the City has implemented reductions in services to the public by various Departments, including reducing hours, eliminating in-person programs and public computer use for the month of January beginning January 4<sup>th</sup> for the Library.

Commissioner Maynard asked who made the decision regarding the decrease in library hours and services. Director Fogarty answered the Springfield Health Commissioner and the Mayor.

Commissioner Cary asked if it affected the staff hours, but he was assured that although understaffed, managers have worked out the schedules for everyone. Commissioner Maynard asked how distribution of COVID tests came about.

Director Fogarty said lots of libraries in the state and local community centers were giving them out and the city's objective was to get them out as quickly as possible and used their trusted resources. The kits came from Governor Baker and were distributed to urban centers.

If there is a second round of tests, then they would likely be given out in one or two centralized locations, not at the libraries again.

Kudos to the staff for being so willing to help and figuring out the best way to distribute the tests with such short notice.

Commissioner Moriarty suggests sending out an electronic email to staff to thank them for their amazing efforts. Commissioner Cary says he will be happy

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to craft the message.

Director Fogarty adds that when the staff found out there would be no access to computers, the staff were very concerned and went above and beyond asking what they could do to still assist the public. This speaks to their commitment to their patrons.

Commissioner Maynard shared his thanks to the library and being able to have access to tests from the library for him and his mother. He plans to include his appreciation in the email that will go out to staff.

Ms. Canosa Albano speaks to how challenging it is to hire and retain staff at the moment, but that they are putting their best efforts forward.

Commissioner Cary mentioned how great the staff at the East Forest Park Branch were during the December STEP concert .

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**6. New/ Other  
Business-**

None

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**7. Executive Session**

Not Needed

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**8. Adjournment**

**6:19 PM**

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, *Secretary*