**Place:** Zoom Online

**Date:** May 4, 2022

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

**Absent:** Clodo Concepcion

**Staff:**

Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director

Jamillah Vernon, Community Relations Coordinator

Diane Houle, Manager

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

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| 1. Approval of Minutes from the April 6, 2022 Library Commission Meetings. | Approval of April 6, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Moriarty moves to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Fyntrilakis moves to second. Roll Call. Commissioner Reilly would like to third the motion. Commissioner Moriarty; yes, Commissioner Reilly; yes, Commissioner Lunghi; yes, Commissioner Maynard; yes, Commissioner Fyntrilakis; yes, Commissioner Cary; yes. All in favor. Minutes Approved. |  |
| **2.Staff Presentation:**  **Diane Houle** | Diane Houle shares upcoming May programming with excitement that patrons and programming are coming back.  Explains this year’s Summer Reading Program. She shares what is the same from last year and what is new, including collaboration with Home Grown/Sodexo summer meals program. Five library locations will serve as meal sites from June 27th – August 25th. A neighborhood concert on June 2nd will lead in events heading up the kickoff. Readers this summer will have many chances to earn raffle tickets for reading. The library will be utilizing the Beanstack app again this year for virtual tracking. |  |
| **3. Commission Committee Reports** | Commissioners Reilly, Fyntrilakis & Cary are currently working on a letter to ask for a progress report from DPW Director Chris Cignoli on his plans for pedestrian safety on State Street in front of the Central Library. Commissioner Cary opens up a discussion surrounding the idea of inviting Mr. Cignoli to the May meeting. According to the original timeline, a temporary set up of traffic barrels for testing the plan was scheduled for March. That has not happened yet. Commissioner Moriarty says that there was something on the news this morning discussing the temporary barrels for testing that will be set up in the next few weeks. |  |
| **4. Chairman’s Report** | Springfield Library Foundation has approved $10,000 for East Springfield, Mason Square and Sixteen Acres branches to help fund landscaping and gardening programming.  In regard to the State Street safety project, Commissioner Cary spent time with Chris Cignoli who assured him in the next two weeks there should be new items in the street. First cones, the barrels, then potential paint lines. Items will be there for about 6-8 weeks to see how often they get knocked down. There are two potential designs in the narrowing of the street, but both include a raised crosswalk.  Commissioner Maynard asked if there was a study done that led to these decisions. Commissioner Cary answered yes, and they include studies by  DPW, traffic experts Fuss & O’Neill, MassDOT and then the City.  Commissioner Fyntrilakis mentions that Mr. Cignoli was on the news this morning that electronic signage will be going up and in two weeks cones should be up.  Commissioner Moriarty asks if it is time to send a letter to Director Cignoli requesting an updated timeline and reassurance that the timeline will be met. Commissioner Cary says no such nudge is needed at the moment but we should have a letter of support ready to release. He has also offered to have a public meeting, webinar format for Mr. Cignoli to attend and answer questions. This would be through Focus Springfield.  Ms. Canosa Albano attended the public meeting yesterday and there is a plan to have a big media campaign to go along with the physical changes. Also, there will be people there to monitor the impact and driver reactions and behaviors as well as cameras and other mechanisms to assess the process.  Mr. Cignoli’s plan is to have everything done by the time school starts again which gives some sort of timeline.  Commissioner Maynard brought up that a resident brought a question to him about why the need for lane consolidation and the raised crosswalk instead of just the crosswalk. Commissioner Cary says the thought process is that the raised crosswalk could potentially force cars to slow down. The study does show that two lanes going in the same direction means car goes faster by a certain percentage. Commissioner Maynard asks if the raised crosswalk would lead to a speeding car being airborne, and would the lane consolidation really be necessary to which Commissioner Cary responds that all of the ones he’s seen are all one lane so maybe there might be a law in place, or it may just be the architects’ decision when constructing them. |  |
| **5. Director’s Report** | Presented by Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director.  Ms. Canosa Albano met with East Springfield Civic Association and Ward 2. They gathered input to stay on the same page as far as what’s on the short term and long term plan for the outside of East Springfield.  Both Ms. Canosa & Director. Fogarty attended the 90th anniversary celebration at East Springfield and saw others there including Commissioner Fyntrilakis. It was a nice event that brought together young folks and people who were there as a child. There was an author talk and on Saturday a part two where an intern gave a talk about the history of the neighborhood when the library was first built.  Ms. Fogarty, Ms. Aieshya Jackson & Ms. Canosa Albano met with the new program officer from Mass Cultural Council, a state agency that funds the Library for $13,000 annually. They will be changing the way they fund organizations moving forward and it was nice to meet the new program officer and tell her about the library and what it offers. There will be a new application soon.  Jamillah Vernon and Jean participated in a 3-session series offered by the Massachusetts Library System about inclusive marketing and equity in library services. Ms. Vernon talked about inclusivity and the conversation that was started by the series to make everyone feel welcome during every part of their library experience.  There was a lot of news coverage about the Chromebooks and hotspots on the radio and news, including WAMC radio and Sy Becker from WWLP. Ms. Canosa Albano thanked the staff of the Baystate Health Interpreter and Translation Services who translated all the instructions, which library staff are making accessible for staff and patrons on our website.  Brought on new vendors for branch security and cleaning May 1st.  Pervious and new vendors have been cooperative in passing the baton.  Managers had a training on FMLA so they can help staff and let them know when to file the paperwork and to assist.  Recruiting and onboarding staffing is an ongoing process.  Delphine (Ray) Williams retired after 37 years at the library.  A senior clerk from Indian Orchard Branch has completed her library masters and started working as a part time librarian at Pine Point. Another recent graduate will be coming on board after volunteering for the last semester.  Commissioner Cary asked if there was retention of security staff. Ms. Canosa Albano is not sure at this point and hasn’t seen it, but Ms. Jackson might know. |  |
| **6. New/Other Business** | Commissioner Lunghi asked about tying the fine elimination to summer reading and asked where we are with that. Commissioner Cary says that it should be received positively by the Mayor’s Office and finance department.  Ms. Canosa Albano says eliminating fines is a top priority in making people feel welcome and eliminate barriers. There is a lot of work that needs to be done even if it gets approved tomorrow.  Commissioner Fyntrilakis brought up that people will still be held responsible for lost items and asks about whether or not we’re still contracted with a collection agency. Ms. Canosa Albano says we are and since so many other libraries have done fine elimination and lost item collection, we will lean on them for direction. |  |
| **7. Executive Session:** | **Not Needed.** |  |
| **8. Adjournment** | **6:33** |

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, *Secretary*