



**Minutes
of the Board of Directors Meeting
December 7, 2023
Noon**

Present: David Barrett, *Chair*, Rick Costello, *Treasurer*, Melvyn Colon (virtual), Andréa Comer (virtual), Carlos Galdamez (virtual), Floyd Green (virtual), Suzanne Hopgood, Sara Lashetski, Patsy Mundy, Sarah Needham, Dan O’Shea (virtual), Margaret Sweetland Patricelli, Phyllis Shikora (virtual), and Tyrone Walker (virtual).

Also Present: Bridget E. Quinn, President and CEO; Gwen Cannon, Human Resources Director; Leticia Cotto, Customer Experience Officer; Marie Jarry, Public Services Director; Brenda Miller, Executive Director, Culture & Communications; Homa Naficy, Executive Director, The American Place; Mary Tzambazakis, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel; Karl Fisher, Finance Director, and Andrea Figueroa, Senior Executive Assistant.

1. Call to Order

Chair David Barrett called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

2. Approval of the Nomination of Patsy Mundy

Board Action: Motion was made by Suzanne Hopgood to approve the nomination of Patsy Mundy to the Board. Steve Harris seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. David Barrett asked everyone to introduce themselves to Patsy Mundy.

3. Board Chair’s Report

Board Action: Mr. David Barrett moved to nominate Patsy Mundy to the Audit Committee. Seconded by Rick Costello.

Board Action: A motion was made by David Barrett to approve the nominations of Kimberly Kersey and Jeff Stewart to the Albany Expansion Task Force committee. Andréa Comer moved. Steve Harris seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Barrett asked members of the board to take a batch of holiday cards to send out to staff.

4. Consent Agenda

Board Action: Motion was made to approve the consent agenda that included minutes of the October 5, 2023, Board of Directors meeting, minutes of the October 5, 2023 Board of Directors Annual meeting, minutes of the October 25, 2023 Albany Task Force Expansion meeting, minutes of the November 1, 2023 Audit Committee meeting, minutes of the November 29, 2023 Governance Committee meeting, and minutes of the November 30, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. The motion was moved by Suzanne Hopgood and was seconded by Steve Harris. The motion carried.

5. President and CEO's Report

The President and CEO Report was shared in advance. Ms. Quinn presented some highlights of the 1st QT President and CEO Report. The first page gives a snapshot, and the back page gives a bit more detail of actual attendance and numbers of programs and traffic seen while the Downtown Library is closed.

6. Mission Moment

Ms. Quinn introduced Ms. Brenda Miller and Ms. Jessica Emonds for a mission moment presentation. The HPL website needs updating, and to do so, the logo needs to change. Being that the Library is also celebrating its 250th anniversary, this is an opportunity to blend all three together. Ms. Miller presented a visual identity of HPL through time. Ms. Jessica Emonds shared that in January and February, HPL will have a total of 9 birthday parties throughout the branches for children and families with one adult party in February. There will be other 250th celebrations throughout the year such as the 2024 Summer Learning with a parade, scavenger hunt, and a fundraiser at Thomas Hooker Brewery. A children's book about Caroline Hewins will be unveiled with some programming around that to finalize the celebrations of the 250th anniversary.

7. Committees and Task Force Reports

Ms. Quinn gave an update on the Barbour Library. The Library received notification from the State Library regarding the State Construction Grant. The Mayor will also add on the City Council agenda an additional \$3.5M for the Barbour Library to break ground in the Spring of 2024.

8. New Business

Board Action: A motion to approve the Audit 990 with an amendment with new language saying Hartford Public Library Ambassadors ratify the appointment of Board members. Motion was moved by Suzanne Hopgood. Seconded by Sarah Needham. Motion carried.

9. Other Business

Beyond Words Update

Ms. Sarah Needham reported that Beyond Words reached a \$300,000 goal for revenue. There were over 400 people in the room. Raised over \$200,000 and the net profit was up year after year with donations continuing to come in even after the event. In 2024, the Beyond Words event is scheduled for November 7th at the Marriott.

10. Board 2024 Calendar of Meetings

Board Action: A motion was made by Suzanne Hopgood to approve the 2024 meeting calendar for the Board of Directors with a change for the Executive Committee meeting date in November. Sarah Needham seconded. Motion carried.

With no other business, Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Harris seconded. Meeting adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget E. Quinn
President and CEO