



Minutes of the Meeting
of the Board of Directors
HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
February 2, 2012

Present: Julio Concepcion, Marc DiBella, Anne Melissa Dowling, Stephen Goddard, William Large, Ingrid Lindberg, Thea Montañez, Brad Noel, Annette Sanderson, Geraldine Sullivan, and Carlos Valinho.

Also present: Matthew Poland, chief executive officer; Marian Amodeo, chief public services officer; Mary Crean, chief development officer; Mary Tzambazakis, chief administrative officer, and Andrea Figueroa, executive assistant.

Absent: Ana Alfaro, Shelley Best, Gregory Davis, and Connie Green.

1. **Introduction:** President Thea Montañez called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Board Action: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2011 meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

Board Action: Motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 12, 2012 meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

3. **Committee Reports**

No committee reports.

4. **President's Report**

Ms. Montañez continues to meet with Mr. Poland on a regular basis to develop a working relationship for the benefit of the Library.

Ms. Montañez participates in a mayoral initiative called Opportunities Hartford, which the Mayor created about a year ago. The initiative is comprised of mostly civic leaders, including the Library's CEO, in three (3) committees focusing on these areas: (1) improving educational outcomes, (2) increasing income for Hartford residents, and (3) creating jobs

through workforce development. These committees will make recommendations to the Mayor in March. Many of the “opportunities” will involve the Library in some way, reinforcing the important role that the Library plays in the successful future of the community.

Ms. Montañez also expressed her interest in addressing issues and challenges faced by women and girls. Ms. Montanez created and facilitates a group of ten local non-profit community groups, including the Library, that are working collaboratively to raise awareness of these issues and challenges during Women’s History Month in March.

Ms. Montañez will talk about the annual giving campaign at the Board Retreat. Last year, there was 100% participation of all members of the board. She also plans to continue meetings with individual members of the board for a discussion about the board’s role within the Library and individual expectations for participation.

5. Chief Executive Report

Matt Poland, chief executive officer, gave his report. Highlights of the report:

- Mr. Poland added that Board giving was \$9,700 which was very significant. In FY 10-11, employee giving reached nearly \$1,500. As of this year, employee giving has reached \$1,300 so far. Annette Sanderson asked if the Library is one of the designated agencies for the United Way. Mr. Poland stated that the Library is a designated agency.
- The Library is involved in The All American City Award process. This year the requirement is to submit a citywide plan addressing **reading by Grade 3**. The Library will focus on eliminating summer learning loss through its summer reading initiative. The Connecticut Science Center and the Wadsworth Atheneum will partner with the Library on the development of new summer programs in 2013.
- A portion of the board retreat will be dedicated specifically to the Hartford History Center and The American Place.
- The City’s budget office says it will be another flat year. The Library may have a \$150,000 in increased pension costs.

Next steps for major projects for the Library:

- **Itty Bitty City** – the creation of a replica of Hartford within Youth Services on the third floor of the Downtown Library. Inside the interior of the mini-buildings will be tools to foster the development of the vocabulary skills of young toddlers up to kindergarten-age. The Library is now beginning the process of seeking funding for this project.

- The **YouMedia** proposal for a digital teen lab has been submitted to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for consideration. The digital teen lab will provide teens substantive exposure to the digital world to help them build their portfolios for college, career and living in the 21st century.
- The **Center for Civic Engagement** at the Library is a work in progress connecting the various civic engagement initiatives currently underway at the Library. The Library is in discussions with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving about a role in the foundation-sponsored community indicators project in the City. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill has invited Mr. Poland to participate on a civic health committee. Until now there have been no libraries represented across the state on this committee. Mr. Poland will help to enjoin other public libraries on issues of civic engagement.
- A digitization project is being created for the Hartford History Center. The Library has developed a program to seek funding. The Center is currently working on **Hartford Grows** a project to create an app for mobile devices that will incorporate history, geography, and guides to Hartford's park system.
- The Library is resubmitting a grant at the request of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to create a **Discovery Center** in Hartford. This would be a destination center for residents and visitors for information about Hartford driven by the Library's historic collections.

Anne Melissa Dowling asked if donations made specifically to the Hartford History Center are set aside for that purpose. Mr. Poland answered affirmatively.

Ms. Annette Sanderson congratulated Mr. Poland for his recent nomination to the Hartford Board of Education.

6. **New Business**

One Big Summer night is scheduled for June 12, 2012 at the Connecticut Convention Center, featuring Arianna Huffington. The ticket price is \$145.

One Book for Greater Hartford will be rebranded as **One Book, One Hartford**. The new program will feature two books each year. The Mayor will announce the program's introduction as part of a citywide literacy strategy. The first book will be ***I Am an Emotional Creature***, by playwright and social activist Eve Ensler. Ms. Ensler will be at the Library on May 6.

7. Other Business

Retreat

The Board Retreat will be Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 8AM-1PM. Susan Benton, president and chief executive officer of the Urban Libraries Council, will talk about urban public libraries across the continent. Paul Pita, chief artistic director of The Pita Group, will also lead a discussion about the branding of the Library.

New Committees

The chairs of each committee have been appointed. Committee schedules will be created in the weeks ahead.

New Library Cards

Marian Amodeo distributed the five options for new library cards that will be available soon. The Library will have a Read Campaign featuring local celebrities. Mayor Pedro Segarra and the Governor and the First Lady will be among the Library's first local celebrities. The campaign will create posters with these celebrities holding a card.

8. Announcements and Communications

The new Hartford Magazine features photographs by Brad Clift. The Library currently is sponsoring a long term project with Mr. Clift to document Hartford today photographically that will become part of the Hartford History Center's collection.

The Hartford Courant listed the Library as the "Hippest Spot in Town" and one of the "City's coziest jazz roosts".

The ArtWalk featuring Andres Chaparro is Friday, February 3 at 6PM.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Poland,
Acting Secretary