



**Minutes  
of the Board of Directors Meeting  
August 5, 2021  
Noon  
Via Zoom**

Present: Gregory Davis, *chair*, Phyllis Shikora, *vice-chair*, Ana Alfaro, *secretary*, Rick Costello, *treasurer*, Arunan Arulampalam, David Barrett, Melvyn Colon, Andréa Comer, Andrew Diaz-Matos, Floyd W. Green III, Steve Harris, Suzanne Hopgood, Sara Lashetski, Antonio Matta, Sarah Needham, and Karen Taylor.

Also Present: Bridget E. Quinn, president and CEO; Leticia Cotto, customer experience officer; Marie Jarry, director of Public Services; Homa Naficy, executive director, the American Place; Diana Smith, director of Human Services; Karl Fisher, finance director; Andrea Figueroa, executive assistant, and Jasmin Agosto, outreach manager, Hartford History Center.

**1. Call to Order**

President Gregory Davis called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**2. Consent Agenda**

***Board Action:*** Motion was made to approve the consent agenda that included minutes of the June 3, 2021 Board of Directors meeting; minutes of the July 21, 2021 Park Task Force Committee meeting, and minutes of the July 29, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was moved by Phyllis Shikora and seconded by Antonio Matta. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. President and CEO's Report**

Ms. Quinn presented highlights of her report also sent in advance.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that the Kitchen is not returning and has cleared out all items they owned. The space will be used for events and programs. Will look at other vendor options in a few months depending on how the pandemic is going.

With opening and restoration services, more branch locations have opened. Have reimposed mask requirement for staff and customers due to COVID-19 variant.

The Albany Library is hosting a vaccine clinic on August 5 and Lt. Governor has visited the site.

Ms. Quinn asked Karl Fisher to give an overview of the financials and how the year end report is looking.

Mr. Fisher reported that tentatively through June 30 about 97% in revenue collected and about 93% in expenses with a variance of \$450,000. Because the year end is still not closed, numbers are still coming in. Should be completed by third week of August.

#### **4. Board Chair's Report**

Mr. Davis thanked the staff for getting through the Spring and into Summer. He attended the virtual staff meeting on July 15 and thanked all staff for their hard work and reported to them of the upcoming Library projects and reiterated their concerns about their health and well-being.

Mr. Davis gave recognition to Ana Alfaro in her work with the Park Street Library project and for securing \$100,000 from Eversource. Eversource will also be the lead sponsor for Beyond Words.

Mr. Davis thanked Melvyn Colon and his bank for helping pick Arunan Arulampalam as the CEO of Hartford Land Bank.

Mr. Davis gave a shout out to Dan O'Shea for leading the Strategic Planning Project.

Mr. Davis along with Phyllis Shikora and David Barrett are planning on the executive evaluation process and will share more at the end of the month.

Mr. Davis announced that he is running for town council in Bloomfield.

#### **5. Mission Moment**

Ms. Quinn introduced Jasmin Agosto, outreach manager for the Hartford History Center.

Ms. Agosto gave a brief presentation on Hartford Changemakers Program. In 2016, Hartford History Center started putting out images of historic figure in the neighborhoods during Black History month. The HHC created a reference guide of those historic figures in Hartford which includes bios, images, etc. The Hartford Changemakers Program's first summer workshop was done virtually due to the pandemic. This program seeks to expand and connect in the communities in Hartford.

#### **6. Committee and Task Force Reports**

- Barbour Street Task Force: Ms. Quinn reported that HPL is still working on EDA application and waiting for lease terms and agreements from

Community Solutions. Revised schematics are also pending to go with the EDA application. There are some walk throughs being planned within the next few weeks.

- Park Street Task Force: Ms. Quinn reported that fencing has come down and waiting on final touches. Shelving is still pending due to manufacturing delays. Ribbon cutting will be planned for some time in September and a community celebration is scheduled for October 2.
- Strategic Planning Task Force: Public Forums were successful. Some focus groups are happening at the branches, and community-wide surveys going out soon.

## 7. **New Business**

No new business to report.

## 8. **Other Business**

Mr. Davis asked if Beyond Words would be virtual or in-person. Ms. Quinn stated that the Beyond Words committee is working out details for an in-person event and with the possibility of having some component that will allow a hybrid model if things do not improve by then.

## **Adjourn**

**Board Action:** With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 p.m. Andrea Comer moved and seconded by Phyllis Shikora.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget E. Quinn  
President and CEO