



**Minutes
of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 7, 2022
Noon
Park Street Library**

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

Also Present: Bridget E. Quinn, president and CEO; Leticia Cotto, customer experience officer; Marie Jarry, director of Public Services; Brenda Miller, executive director, Culture and Communications; Homa Naficy, executive director, The American Place; Diana Smith, director of Human Services; Gilda Roncari, donor relations director; Mary Tzambazakis, Chief Administrative Office; Karl Fisher, finance director; Andrea Figueroa, senior executive assistant, and Graciela Rivera, branch manager, Park Street Library.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Consent Agenda

Board Action: Motion was made to approve the consent agenda that included minutes of the February 3, 2022, Board of Directors meeting; minutes of the February 15, 2022, Development Committee meeting; minutes of the March 15, 2022, Finance Committee meeting; minutes of the March 31, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, and minutes of the April 5, 2022, Governance Committee meeting. The motion was moved by Tony Matta and seconded by Phyllis Shikora. The motion carried.

3. President and CEO’s Report

Ms. Quinn shared some postcards distributed to the Board as gifts. Ms. Quinn shared updates on the EDI efforts and planning by Leading Culture Solutions. Calendar invitations will be sent for board participation. A survey from ACLB was distributed for feedback from the board about what they could do to be more impactful to serving the libraries in Connecticut. Ms. Quinn also shared two success stories of an impact study in the TAP department. There are a number of new Afghani people who arrived in the Hartford region and the Library has been providing them with a range of educational and employment resources. The first story was of a woman who has

five school aged children who visited TAP for English classes and was hired on the spot as part-time in literacy program because she understands the cultural impact and language issues. The second story of a man who was a former interpreter in his homeland, met with Julie Redding in our Crossroads to Connectivity, she loaned him a laptop and he responded to job postings at Hartford Hospital and was hired for a full-time position on the spot.

Mr. Greg Davis acknowledged some birthdays: Steve Harris, Phyllis Shikora, and Gilda Roncari.

4. Board Chair's Report

Mr. Barrett gave a moment of recognition to Marie Jarry who received a major national award from the American Library Association. He also gave recognition to Ms. Bridget Quinn for her six-year anniversary at HPL.

Mr. Barrett reminded all Board members of the special meeting on April 29.

Mr. Barrett announced that Arunan Arulampalam will be stepping down from the role of Corporators Liaison and will be transitioned to Floyd Green.

New committees and task force requires approval from the Board. Mr. Barrett announced the creation of the Albany Expansion Task Force. Andréa Comer has accepted the role of chair and serving with her on the committee are the following members: Ana Alfaro, Arunan Arulampalam, Greg Davis, Steve Harris, and Tony Matta.

Board Action: Motion was made by Dan O'Shea to create the Albany Expansion Task Force committee. Seconded by Steve Harris. The motion carried.

5. Mission Moment

Ms. Quinn introduced Brenda Miller to give a quick overview of a short piece created on the Park Street Library at the Lyric. It is made available to customers and is also available in Spanish. Graciela Rivera, manager of the Park Street Library was introduced and talked about the operations of the library since its opening six months ago.

Mr. Greg Davis asked if there were any challenges since the opening of the branch. Graciela stated that the biggest challenge is that people want to use the space more, but the Library is operating with limited hours.

Ms. Mary Tzambazakis reported on some of the building issues. One of the bigger issues was a leak on the roof which has been resolved. There was water coming into the basement and that has also been resolved.

6. Committee and Task Force Reports

- Governance: Ms. Suzanne Hopgood reported on the nomination of Carlos Galdamez as a recommendation from Jill Hutensky of Bank of America to be appointed as a new member of the Board.

Board Action: Motion was made by Suzanne Hopgood to accept the nomination of Carlos Galdamez to the Board. Seconded by Phyllis Shikora. The motion carried.

- Barbour: The biggest news is that Economic Development Administration has awarded the Swift project a grant of \$3.7M. This will fund a portion of the library's build out in the new space. While the funding for the Library build-out has been secured, we continue to seek funding for long term operational costs and as a contingency for any unforeseen cost overruns.

7. New Business

Endow21 & Swift Lease

The Endow21 is an opportunity offered by the Hartford Foundation and Zach Family Foundation to match donations to organizations in an effort to build long term funding and endowment capacity. Ms. Quinn proposed using the Library's Endow21 fund to build a fund to support the Swift Factory's long-term lease costs. There was support for the idea, and it is not binding should the Board decide at some point to use the funds in the Endow21 fund for other purposes.

The lease for the Swift space is being prepared and will be presented to the Board in the coming weeks for consideration. HPL does have a letter of intent with Community Solutions (CS) which defines general terms of and enabled HPL to move forward with the EDA grant. HPL has engaged outside counsel to assist with the contracting process. The executive director of Community Solutions is interested in pursuing a \$250,000 donation and there was discussion regarding a naming opportunity within the library at Swift to acknowledge the gift. The consensus was to enable Ms. Quinn to proceed with CS with the understanding that any support needs to be mutually beneficial to both the Library and CS.

8. Other Business

Potential Art Donation

Approximately two years ago, the Board discussed a request to relocate a large painting currently on exhibit at City Hall to the Downtown Library. At the time, the Library did not elect to move forward with the request. The artist is once again requesting that the Library consider rehousing the artwork at the Library, citing concerns that it is not a permanent installation at City Hall. The Board does not think

that this is an issue HPL should take on at the present time. If in the future, City Hall plans to remove the mural, the artist can reach out to HPL at that time.

9. Adjournment

Board Action: With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 p.m. Motion was moved by Dan O’Shea seconded by Suzanne Hopgood. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget E. Quinn
President and CEO