



**Minutes
of the Board of Directors Meeting
February 1, 2024
Noon
Via zoom**

Present: David Barrett, *Chair*, Rick Costello, *Treasurer*, Melvyn Colon, Andréa Comer, Carlos Galdamez, Suzanne Hopgood, Sara Lashetski, Patsy Mundy, Sarah Needham, Margaret Sweetland Patricelli, Phyllis Shikora, and Karen Taylor.

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; 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 12:03 p.m.

2. Consent Agenda

Board Action: Motion was made to approve the consent agenda that included minutes of the December 7, 2023, Board of Directors meeting, minutes of the January 24, 2024, Development Committee meeting, and minutes of the January 25, 2024, Executive Committee meeting. The motion was moved by Phyllis Shikora and was seconded by Rick Costello. The motion carried.

3. President and CEO's Report

The second quarter President and CEO Report was shared in advance. Ms. Quinn encouraged all to go through it as there is great information about current financials and programmatic work.

Ms. Quinn shared a presentation and update on the Downtown Library project. It shows where things are with the plans and the financials. This is not just a repair project but an opportunity to renovate and have spaces and services relevant to the community for the next 20 years. The updated cost estimate for the work needed above damage repair (which is covered by insurance) are more extensive than

anticipated. Ms. Quinn went over the cost implications and the Board discussed potential options for securing additional funding.

4. Chair's Report

Mr. David Barrett announced the 250th Anniversary event on February 22 and encouraged all Board members to attend. There will also be a short video of past and current HPL Leadership which includes Greg Davis, Louise Blalock and Bridget Quinn.

5. Committees and Task Force Reports

Development Committee

Ms. Sarah Needham gave an update on the Annual Board Giving. The Board of Directors are asked annually to sign up a pledge form showing their commitment to the organization. The one change this year is the language now encourages Board members to contribute annually to the best of their ability rather than a suggested amount of \$1,000. Ms. Sarah Needham also gave an update on BW23. The last and final numbers through the end of January is up to \$315,000 against the goal of \$300,000. Is encouraging the committee to increase the goal to \$350,000 in 2024.

6. New Business

Ambassador's Event

Ms. Gilda Roncari reported on behalf of Floyd Green, Ambassador Liaison. Sometime in March, will be showing the film, the Right to Read about equity in honor of Black History Month. There will also be plans to do a bus tour of all branches in May. Mr. Green plans to reach out to the Ambassadors asking for volunteers to help start a book group.

Mr. Rick Costello mentioned that an RFP was put out for a new Investment Advisor and is in the process of review and will come back to the full board with a recommendation.

Ms. Andréa Comer read the list of all that is happening at HPL and announced, for those that are interested, that Patina Love will be in Connecticut on February 6 at Fairfield University. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4804332/user-clip-conspirators>

Ms. Brenda Miller announced a press conference on February 12 at the Albany Library on the John E. Rogers collection.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget E. Quinn
President and CEO