

**THE FERGUSON LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**April 27, 2021**

**Present:**

**Board Members:** A. Livingston (Chair); E. Bromley; R. Granata; S. Frederick;  
M. Hyman; S. Kim; P. O'Brien Morrow; S. O'Shea; D. Williams

**Citizen Advisers:** R. Baron; T. Bartley; T. Cassone; S. Duarte; C. Ernst;  
D. Kooris; E. Larson; T. Lucero; R. Mercede

**Staff:** A. Knapp; N. Bochicchio; J. Fulcher Anderson; L. Avellar; C. Harper;  
C. Hubbard; E. Joseph; S. LaPerla; F. Skornia

The meeting was called to order and was held via zoom.

Mr. Livingston started the meeting with a comment on the success of the recent A Novel  
Affair event and his observations on how complex an event it was to produce.

**Minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting, made by Mr.  
Granata and seconded by Mr. Williams, was approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Harper presented the income statement for the nine months ending March 31,  
2021, noting variances in several categories.

**President's Report**

Ms. Knapp said that Josephine Fulcher Anderson, Supervisor of the South End  
Branch and Bookmobile, was named Outstanding Librarian for 2021 by the  
Connecticut Library Association. Ms. Anderson then gave a photographic "tour" of  
the recently renovated branch. Ms. LaPerla showed a video on the importance of  
reading to young children produced by the library's youth services staff. Mr. Skornia  
discussed the Community Web Project which enables libraries to build collections of  
historical material on the web. And Ms. Knapp said the library's new logo will be  
revealed when the new website's launches in mid-May.

**Executive Committee**

Mr. Livingston said that the Executive Committee met via zoom on April 27, 2021  
and reviewed the matters on the Board of Trustees agenda. Draft minutes of this  
meeting were distributed through email prior to the board meeting.

### **Building Committee**

Ms. Knapp discussed the development of plans for the roofing projects at the Main Library and Weed Branch. The former is funded by the city, the latter by the state. Development of plans for phase 1 of the Bennett Branch modernization are nearing the bid phase.

### **Long Range Planning Committee**

Ms. O'Shea said the Committee met on March 11, 2021 and reviewed a report on the Innovation Builders program and will participate in the early phase of the staff's "deep needs assessment" of community needs at its next meeting.

### **Pension Committee**

Mr. Granata said that at its April 8, 2021 meeting, the Committee met with the Wells Fargo investment advisors and learned about the performance of the portfolio. They also reviewed and adjusted some of the provisions in the Investment Policy Statement. They also met with Attorney Zeid on the new TIAA 403b Adoption Agreement, and upon his recommendation, adopted the agreement. Hooker & Holcombe presented a report on the investment in the 401a and 403b plans at ICMA-RC. Finally, the Committee discussed having a review of the investment management at an upcoming meeting.

### **Friends of Ferguson**

Ms. Ernst reported on the completion of the Literary Competition, activities at the Book Shop, including a collectibles sale and bags sale, the author series, and a resource list developed by a Friends Committee Ferguson Friends Against Racism. The Books for Babies program has grown as have births at Stamford Hospital, and Friends are working with a Pollinator Pathway group and library staff to expand the memorial garden at the Bennett Branch.

### **2021-2022 Budgets**

Ms. Knapp said that, pending Board of Representatives action, the library will receive a 4½% increase in its operating budget next year and capital funds will be provided for the Main Library roof projects and for technology.

### **ARPA Grant**

Ms. Knapp reported that up to \$31,000 grant will be provided by the state library using federal funds for covid-related costs and improvements.

**Fine Policy**

Ms. Knapp said that the library discontinued collecting fines when it reopened in July, largely due to the complexity of returning materials during the covid-lockdown. She said she would like to discontinue fines going forward as it is a barrier to library usage. A motion to discontinue fines, made by Mr. Bromley and seconded by Mr. Williams, was approved.

**A Novel Affair**

Ms. Avellar reported that \$227,000 in combined proceeds was received at the April 15<sup>th</sup> event, in large part to the largest sponsorship participation ever received. Due to the lower cost of producing a virtual event, the \$190,000 in net proceeds is as much as at a live event. Upcoming, the library is planning a donor reception on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Robert J. Granata  
Secretary