

**Wellesley Free Library
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
7:15 PM
Arnold Room**

Present: Marla Robinson, Chair; Ann Howley, Vice Chair; Ann Rappaport, Secretary; Linshi Li, Maura Murphy, Diane Savage; Jamie Jurgensen, Library Director; Cara Rothman, Assistant Director; Jeannette DiBiase, Office Administrator; Alexa Penge, WFL Foundation Finance and Audit Chair; Ann-Mara Lanza, Select Board

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM

CITIZEN SPEAK

Ann-Mara Lanza, Select Board Member, encouraged Trustees to support the DEI Task Force's motion regarding an anti-racism resolution and equity audit in Article 17 at Annual Town Meeting.

ITEM

1. Minutes

- Diane moved (Ann H. seconded) to approve the minutes of February 13, 2023 as amended. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Ann R. moved (Diane seconded) to approve the minutes of February 24, 2023 as amended. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Director's Report

- Jamie reported that the Wellesley Free Library is one of 258 libraries in the country recognized by the *Library Journal* as a Star Library for 2022. Because this designation is based partly on a library's level of funding, Jamie thanked the Wellesley taxpayers and WFL supporting organizations and their donors for helping the WFL achieve "star" status, particularly during a pandemic year.
- Jamie reported that there was no month in 2022 where fewer than 100 people signed up for a library card, and only two months in which fewer than 150 signed up.
- The electric charging station for the Library van has been installed. Jamie thanked Brian Zabchuk and DPW for applying for grants to reduce its overall cost and facilitating its purchase and installation.
- The Library is collaborating with Olin College students who are teaching classes in Jackie's Room on evenings and weekends. This month, the Library co-sponsored a well-attended program with the Board of Health in the Wakelin Room about household hazards.

3. Foundation and Friends Update

Alexa Plenge from the Foundation gave an update on the plans for “Books in Bloom”, the Foundation’s fundraising event on May 12. Alexa also mentioned that there will be three Trustee-appointed WFLF Board positions open at the end of the fiscal year.

Jamie gave the Friends update on behalf of Barbara Marx. The Friends will be running small group tours of the Library on an ongoing basis, which Cara is helping to coordinate. “Donation Day” successfully provided materials for the April book sale. Marla mentioned that WFLF board member Cathy Bueker will be running the Boston Marathon this year for the Friends.

4. Strategic Plan Update

Jamie handed out a draft of the WFL Mission, Vision, and Values. There was a brief discussion, and a few minor edits were made to the document.

Ann R. moved (Ann H. seconded) that the Mission, Vision, and Values be approved as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

The three Trustees who are part of the SPC then summarized results from the 610 community survey respondents (Ann R.) and 24 interviews and 6 focus groups (Diane and Linshi). All results were analyzed using the SOAR framework and possible opportunities and aspirations for the Library were the focus of the presentations. Jamie presented a draft list of high-level strategic priorities which emerged from the SPC data. The Trustees discussed and refined the list which will be presented to the SPC for feedback. Once the strategic plan priorities are finalized, specific goals to address each priority will be developed.

5. DEI Task Force Initiative

Trustees reviewed the DEI Task Force Initiative and the request by the DEI Task Force to support Article 17 at the Annual Town Meeting. Article 17 asks Town Meeting to support an anti-racism / anti-bias resolution and requests funding to carry out an equity audit in the town. Ann H. drafted a statement from the WFL Trustees supporting Article 17 and linking this support to specific DEI statements by the ALA and MBLC.

Diane moved (Ann R. seconded) to support Article 17 at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Commons Room

Jamie discussed some issues the Library staff has had with a few patrons utilizing the Commons area inappropriately. Jamie proposed drafting a list of guidelines for using the Commons and plans to post these guidelines on the monitor and on the tables in the Commons.

7. Gift Acceptance

Ann R. moved (Ann H. seconded) to accept a \$300 gift from Wayne Everett to the Director’s Fund. The Trustees expressed their gratitude for the generous gift and a thank-you letter will be sent. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. New Business

Based on the recent decision by the MA Supreme Judicial Court pertaining to public comment periods at government meetings, the Trustees will review the policy and guidelines on “Citizens Speak” for the next meeting.

9. Committee & Chair Report

Linshi mentioned she had received a phone call about the parade on May 21 from the Wonderful Wellesley Weekend Committee. The theme of the weekend will be tied to the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. Cara mentioned that the Library will be planning a few activities in collaboration with the WWW Committee to celebrate this event.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ann H. moved (Ann R. seconded) to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiation and not to reconvene in open session. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next Trustee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 7:15 pm in the Arnold Room. (Note: Trustee meetings will also be held approximately one hour before the start of each of the first two nights of Annual Town Meeting in Room 329 of the Wellesley Middle School.)

ADJOURNMENT

Ann H. moved (Diane S. seconded) to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Rappaport, Secretary, WFL Board of Trustees

Date: _____

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- 1: Minutes of February 13, 2023 Meeting
- 2: Minutes of February 24, 2023 Meeting
- 3: Strategic Plan - Mission, Vision, Values Document
- 4: DEI Task Force Initiative Statement