

**Greenfield Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of 4/8/2025 Meeting
Conference Room, Greenfield Public Library**

Meeting was called to order at 5:04PM.

Roll call: Trustees present – Bill Benson, Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca, Ann Dillon, Sam Wood, Jim Zaccara, Sarah Ahearn Bellemare. Doris Cowdrey was absent.

Library staff present: Anna Bognolo, Lisa Prolman.

City staff present: Mayor Ginny Desorgher.

Friends representative present: Paul Jablon.

Public comment: None.

Approval of minutes from March 11, 2025 Meeting: On a motion made by Jim and seconded by Sam, it was unanimously voted to approve the March minutes.

Friends' report: Paul Jablon gave the Friends report. Poet Seat Poetry Contest will be 4/29 at 6PM at the library. Annual appeal goal increased to \$16K (previously \$14K). The Book Sale will be 5/10, with books collected 4/28-5/5. The next Pints for Programs will be at Northfield in May. Fall raffle will start being organized in summer.

New business:

- **Mayoral comments:** Mayor Desorgher shared some commentary on town counsel's review of the library policies. Hard copy of suggested changes/edits were distributed. Most significant change was to add language regarding the process for appeals. Sam commended work done by Anna and Lisa on the research and proposal for these policies. Anna will review proposed changes.
The mayor then reviewed the budget with the Trustees. She noted that in the past, the library has spent approximately 95-97% of its budget. This year, city-wide health insurance and retirement funding are putting additional pressure on the city finances. For the library's budget, the mayor matched the proposed salaries of \$739,586 and reduced proposed expenses of to \$144,000, for a total budget of \$883,586. The library will have to reduce their spending on streaming services and CWMARS fees. Anna will review the impact these changes may have on state funding and MBLC requirements to see if any waiver will be required for next year.
- **Impact of IMLS funding cuts:** The federal government has shut down and put on leave the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) department staff. It is unclear whether these cuts include additional funds which are funneled through the MBLC and are used to support summer reading programs, disabled services, the commonwealth catalog, and other databases. Sam commented that we should be prudent in our reaction as an organization and revisit our spending/activities to ensure they are in alignment with our mission. These cuts may put additional pressure on fundraising efforts and we should evaluate this in conjunction with other NFPs, including the Foundation and Friends and possibly Mass Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts.

Old Business

- **Professional development:** Library staff and other city volunteers attended the Menal Health First Aid class offered on 3/28. Information was provided and follow-up class is being considered to address de-escalation training.
- **Building update:**
 - Bike racks consigned and should be installed once weather improves.
 - Children's room vinyl window covering to be installed 5/3. Wayfinding will now be done in house. Changes will be pared down to essentials. Estimated to be less than \$3K.
- **Director Report:** Almost 14,000 people visited the library in March, including over 800 people on Saturday's Farmers Market. Trustees can review additional statistics included in Director's report. The new presentation template was well-received.

Upon motion made by Sarah, seconded by Jim, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM.