



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**  
**Meeting of the Board**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Virtually, via Zoom**

As the result of an executive order issued by Governor J.B. Pritzker suspending in-person attendance requirements for public meetings due to COVID-19, Library Trustees, staff and guests participated in this meeting remotely.

**Members Present:** Tracy Fulce, Adam Goodman, Rachel Hayman, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Benjamin Schapiro and Terry Soto

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Karen Danczak Lyons, Teri Campbell, John Devaney, Lea Hernandez-Solis, Heather Norborg, Jill Skwerski and Tim Longo.

**Presiding Member:** Shawn Iles, President

**Call to order/Declaration of Quorum:** President Iles called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was established at 6:33 p.m.

**Citizen Comment:** Gay Riseborough, representing the Arts Council, spoke in support of installing the Enigma sculpture in the Reading Garden of the Robert Crown branch library.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the April 21, 2021 Board Meeting**  
Upon motion made by Trustee Hayman and seconded by Trustee Schapiro, the consent agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Together, We are the Library**

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Joint Task Force):**

**A. Joint Task Force (Update).**

Campbell shared a summary of the work of the internal Equity Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) committee and external Racial Equity Task Force (RETF) and their combined efforts to make progress toward the recommendation in the equity assessment. The RETF provided feedback on the marketing ideas offered by an outside firm favoring the idea for a higher profile presence in the 5th ward; gave input on summer programming plans, and discussed the application and recruitment process for new members. The EDI committee identified ways to add structure, embed accountability and highlight the work of the committee for staff; as well as search for other training opportunities for staff.

**Library Director's Report:**

EPL partnered to host a two part education series beginning with the legacy of segregation in Evanston schools. During the second panel discussion, Executive Director Danczak Lyons will share examples of successful public library co-location in housing and schools. Will welcome a new Social Worker in June. Trustee Lurie and other Trustees shared concerns about the need

for an external book drop at Robert Crown. Traffic flow prioritized drop off of people from the passenger side, so driver side access to the sidewalk is not possible. Staff will revisit locating a book drop.

**Staff Report:**

**A. Administrative Services Report**

Campbell shared brief highlights from the written report (included in the board packet).

**B. Summer Engagement Plans 2021 (Heather Norborg and Jill Skwerski)**

Lifelong Learning and Literacy Manager Heather Norborg and Engagement Manager Jill Skwerski presented on the Library's plans for a robust summer of over 100 outdoor visits by library staff across all public facing departments to parks, events, the Robert Crown Reading Garden and other outdoor venues. Our focus is on reaching members of the Evanston community in the 5th, 8th and 9th wards by bringing the library outdoors and engaging community members where they are gathering at *My City, Your City, Our City* events & block parties, ward festivals, family events and park visits. In partnership with District 65 librarians, the City of Evanston Community Services and other partners, we will take the library out into the community to reach families with our Summer Reading Program "Reading Colors Your World," STEM workshops and STEM kit giveaways, book giveaways for home libraries and engaging events, workshops and more.

Trustees asked about how the multitude events can easily see all of the events, and that they tie in with calendar options.

**C. Emerging from the Pandemic (Karen Danczak Lyons)**

Executive Director Danczak Lyons reported that we currently continue our policies of masking, physical distancing, and hand hygiene as we are adding a day of public service to both library locations resulting in the Main Library opening 7 days each week and Robert Crown 6 days. More staff than ever will serve the public outside our walls in the neighborhoods that we prioritize as underserved; this may become our service model for future summers. Virtual programs will continue for the foreseeable future considering those under 12 do not have access to a vaccine. At some point, perhaps in concert with the school year, we intend to fully reopen both EPL locations. Trustees expressed excitement about the plan to significantly increase outside programming. They also advocated for a restoration of public hours, as well as the continuation of virtual or hybrid programming.

**Board Development:**

**A. YWCA Equity Summit 2021**

*Redistributing Power to Build Liberated Communities* May 13 & 14

EPL co-sponsored the event and sent a robust group of attendees from all levels of the organization. Recordings of some of the sessions will be available.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A. Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates for consideration: Tracy Fulce - President, Rachel Hayman - Vice President, Terry Soto - Secretary, Ben Schapiro - Treasurer.

**New Business:**

**A. Sculpture installation proposed for Reading Garden (For Action)**

Assistant to the City Manager and Staff Liaison to the Arts Council, Paulina Martinez gave an overview of the proposal Upon motion made by Trustee Lurie and seconded by Trustee Schapiro, the board tabled a decision regarding the Enigma sculpture installation for the

Reading Garden at Robert Crown until the MOU with the Zimmerman family has been completed and the staff has provided feedback about how the Enigma sculpture would support and/or detract from programming in the garden and the Arts Council has made its recommendation about the sculpture.

**B. Shorefront exhibit case permanent installation (For Action)**

Upon motion made by Trustee Fulce and seconded by Trustee Schapiro, and approved by roll call vote to empower administration to draft an MOU with Shorefront about an exhibit case as a permanent or semi-permanent installation for the board's review and approval.

**C. OverDrive annual contract renewal (For Action)**

Upon motion made by Trustee Goodman and seconded by Trustee Lurie, the OverDrive annual contract renewal for \$21,224.43 was approved by roll call vote.

**Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Schapiro and seconded by Trustee Soto and approved by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Terry Soto / Teri Campbell