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Board of Library Trustees
 Shirin Baradaran, Chair
 Tom Turner, Vice Chair
 Annette Raphel, Secretary
 Brian Keaney
 Crystal Power
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DEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
7:00 p.m., April 7, 2022
Remote Meeting

MEETING CALLED BY	Board of Library Trustees, Dedham
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular monthly meeting
CHAIR	Shirin Baradaran
VICE-CHAIR	Tom Turner (until 9:00 p.m.)
CLERK	Annette Raphel
ATTENDEES	Brian Keaney (Trustee) Crystal Power
PUBLIC ATTENDEES	Meredith Fournier, Children’s Librarian

Note: Underlined items are action items.

AGENDA:

- **Call to Order:** Shirin Baradaran called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- **Public Input:**
 - Meredith Fournier, Children’s Librarian, addressed the impact of Facebook messages addressing choices that have been made in the Children’s room to select and display books in conjunction with themes, especially Black History Month. She appreciated the support that she knows is available from both the administration and board, and the recent work that has gone into clear guidelines for the collection. She is concerned that the lack of any kind of public response to the community, despite the individual responses that have been made by trustees who were contacted, may leave room for continued agitation. Her hope is that community members will better understand the priorities, systems, and philosophy guiding the library from board and administration, and not attribute choices to individual employees. Meredith had sent the trustees an excellent article *Libraries on the Frontlines: Neutrality and Social Justice*. Each of the trustees thanked Meredith for sharing her perspectives and for the work that she has been doing

in the library which both makes us proud and is consistent with our mission and vision. The Board and the Library Administration will work together to make our policies more widely available, reaffirm our support of an equitable, and inclusive space, appreciate the work of the staff in realizing our mission and values, and prepare a statement codifying our commitment to protecting ideas which may not be universally held.

- ***Discussion and Vote: Presentation by Rockland Trust on the Status of the Library's Trusts***
 - Barbara Howard and Brian Callow from Rockland Trust made a presentation about our trust fund income, discussing pros and cons of making any changes to our portfolio which is currently designed to be a stable source of income, and which has not had much recent activity.
 - The Board was interested in understanding of our financial situation in anticipation of possible needs that are identified by the strategic planning recommendations and is in agreement that we need to complete some research about the funds.
 - Our allocation could be tweaked and will be a topic of discussion now that we have a better understanding of performance of our funds.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Town-wide Spring Reading Program: "A Book Feast: Bridging Cultures and Building Community with the Common Language of Food"***
 - Janet Reynolds, of DLit, shared news about the town-wide reading theme and attendant activities, including a May 14th gala at the Endicott branch.
 - All the schools will be participating and information will be published in the *Dedham Times*.
 - Annette Raphael moved that we support the use of the Endicott branch for the gala on May 14th and the motion was seconded by Crystal Power. Tom Turner, Annette Raphael, Shirin Baradaran, Brian Keany and Crystal Power voted in the affirmative, so the motion passed.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Strategic Plan Development:***
 - Wes Harrington met with the library staff on the 18th and is hoping to set up meetings for focus groups and a site visit, and will meet individually with strategic planning committee members and trustees via zoom.
 - The strategic planning committee will be meeting when data has been gathered.
- ***Director's Report:***
 - All metrics are trending in an appreciably positive direction.
 - The Library policies are now on the website and are cited in Dedham emails that go out to citizens receiving updates from the town.
 - We have included information from the library in the revived Welcome Wagon materials.
 - Dedham Savings is helping to underwrite Memory Cafes, for people who have neurological challenges and their caregivers.
 - A new waiver form will be required of patrons wishing to sign out objects.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Update on Library Staff Morale***
 - In conjunction with the Human Resources Department, during staff meeting times, there will be opportunities for team building and enhancing collaboration skills.
 - The Library Director and HR are there to address any issues that staff may have.
- ***Discussion and Vote: FY 2023 Budget Update:***
 - The meeting with the town's Finance and Warrant committee went well- but indications are that because of fiscal constraints, the archivist position and proposed new Summer Sundays at the Endicott branch may not be funded.

- Currently it looks like the most important programming budget item for meeting goals of increased access and responsiveness will be funded.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Update on Bylaw Amendment***
 - So far there is a 3:0 endorsement of ByLaw committee; Fin Com has discussed it but there has been no decisions, but we anticipate suggested amendments going to Town Meeting.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Update on Library's Existing Trusts***
 - No new information.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Annual Town Report***
 - Brian Keaney, in collaboration with Amber Moroney, put our annual town report together. Amber Moroney added pictures to document. Annette Raphael made a motion to accept the town report as drafted by Brian Keaney. Crystal Power seconded the motion. Brian Keaney and Shirin Baradaran joined Annette Raphael and Crystal Power in voting in the affirmative. Tom Turner was not present. The motion carried.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Closing Endicott Branch on July 10, 2022 for the Bay State Antique Auto Show***
 - Annette Raphael moved to close the Endicott Branch during the Bay State Antique Auto Show in the unlikely event that there would be Sunday hours, to accommodate the number of patrons and set up necessitated by the show, consistent with any past practice. Crystal Power seconded the motion. Shirin Baradaran, Annette Raphael, and Crystal Power voted in the affirmative. Brian Keaney voted against the motion. Tom Turner was absent. The motion carried.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Possible Flag Day Event***
 - Amber Moroney and Crystal Power shared the theme of the Library 'float': *Celebrating the Freedom to Read* – and we briefly discussed ideas and needs to participate in the annual Flag Day parade.
- ***Discussion and Vote: Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2022 and March 3, 2022***
 - One correction was noted. Brian Keaney voted to accept the minutes as amended, and Crystal Power seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Brian Keaney, Annette Raphael, Crystal Power and Shirin Baradaran voted for the motion. Tom Turner was absent. The motion passed.
- ***Old/New Business****
 - There was a question about a vehicle perpetually parked at the Endicott library, which does not seem to be a problem.
- ***Schedule Next Meeting***
 - May 5th at the Main Library
 - June 2nd at the Endicott branch
- ***Motion to Adjourn 9:27 pm.***
 - Annette Raphael made a motion to adjourn at 9:27 p.m., seconded by Crystal Power. Annette Raphael, Crystal Power, Brian Keaney, and Shirin Baradaran voted to pass the motion. Tom Turner was absent.