

Bancroft Library Trustees

Minutes from the Special Meeting of September 15, 2016 Meeting

Present: Kim Erbe, Sandy McClellan, Kay Crank, Ed Hutchins, Linda Lewis. Members of the public present: Barbara Hunter, Janet Donoghue, Florence Rubio, Edward Donoghue, Wendy Hunter, Meghan Phalen (Greenwich Journal), Claudia Blackler, Peg Culver, Margery Robertiello, Debbie Earthrowl, Beth Moser-Duquette, Dean Haycock, John Clark, Patricia Kitz, Karen Hickland, John Hickland, Vickie Maxwell, Cynthia Weinrich, Geoffrey Ovington, Linda Giumarra, Linda Marlo, Tonya Goldstein, Anita Whitten, and Bruce Ferguson.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Petition submitted by “Benjamin Bancroft” and signed by 130 persons asking that Susan Getty be named as the interim director of the Bancroft Public Library.

RESINATIONS and APPOINTMENTS

Since Steve Davis, president of the board, resigned as both president and trustee after the last regular meeting and Chris Preble, vice president, resigned as acting president, Kim Erbe opened the meeting and asked for nominations for president and vice president. Ed Hutchins made a motion for that Sandy McClellan be named as president and Kay Crank seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Linda Lewis then made a motion that Kay Crank be named as vice president. Ed Hutchins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandy McClellan, as the newly elected president, opened the meeting to public comment. Kim Erbe asked that the public comment portion be limited to public comment only. She further asked that no questions be answered during public comment by any of the board members to keep the public comment portion from becoming a debate. The board and public agreed and the public comment was opened. Many members of the public spoke regarding the importance of the library to this community, the need to have a Library Director in place immediately, the need for keeping an open mind when hiring a new director whether that person be local or from another area and others voiced their opinions in favor of having Susan Getty named as the interim director. Following are the members of the public that spoke : Wendy Hunter, Dean Haycock, Florence Rudio, Claudia Blacker, John Hickland, Cynthia Weinrich, Tonya Goldstein, Vicki Maxwell, Peg Culver, Linda Marlo, Pat Kitz, Anita Whitten, Debbie Earthrowl and John Clark.

Public comment was closed by Sandy McClellan.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR:

The board had a brief discussion regarding the need for an interim director. Ed Hutchins asked Kay Crank to make the motion she wanted with regards to the existing employees. Kay Crank said she would like to make a motion that whomever the Board selects as an interim director will make all reasonable efforts to maintain the current staff until a permanent director is hired. Ed

Hutchins seconded the motion. Kim Erbe reminded the board that the interim director would have to adhere to the 17 hour maximum employee hours as was discussed at the last meeting. The board agreed and the motion passed unanimously.

The question was then addressed to the public, "Is it Susan Getty or no one?". Several members of the public voiced that it was more a question of the need for an experienced director and/or a former employee. Someone familiar with the Bancroft Library who could step right in and get the library through the transition period until a permanent director could be hired.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sandy McClellan made a motion that the Board go into executive session to discuss the prospects of interim library director. Kim Erbe seconded this motion.

Upon returning from executive session, Kim Erbe made a motion to hire Susan Getty as the interim library director for a 2 month period, effective immediately. The board, by roll call, voted as follows: Ed Hutchins – yes. Sandy McClellan – yes. Kay Crank – yes. Linda Lewis – yes. Kim Erbe – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

HIRING COMMITTEE

Ed Hutchins stated that there would be a hiring committee formed for the search of a new permanent library director. He thought maybe the search should be for a library manager to better fit the role/expectations of the position. Ed Hutchins then suggested that the committee should consist of Linda Lewis, Kay Crank and himself. Ed Hutchins further stated that the interviews would be done by the board, two members of the staff and two members from the public.

John Hickland, from the public, spoke up to remind the board that sub-committee meetings were subject to open meeting law and he would like to see these committee meeting dates posted as per open meeting law.

Linda Lewis then took the opportunity to address the public by stating that the Board of Trustees volunteer their time and all are trying their hardest to do what is in the best interest of the library. She further went on to let the public know that there was an extensive search for the last director, including hundreds of meetings, which resulted in many applications from candidates that included lawyers and PhD's. That she hoped this new search would, again, render the same interest.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting then adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for October 4, 2016 at 12:30PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kim Erbe, Secretary