



Minutes of the Meeting
of the Board of Directors
HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
April 3, 2014

Present: Julio Concepcion, Marc DiBella, Anne Melissa Dowling, Stephen Goddard, Greg Davis, William Large, and Thea Montañez.

Also present: Matthew Poland, chief executive officer; Mary Billings, chief public services officer; Donna Haghighat, chief development officer; Brenda Miller, Chief Cultural Affairs and Public Programming Officer; Homa Naficy, chief Adult Learning Officer; Mary Tzambazakis, chief administrative officer, and Andrea Figueroa, executive assistant.

Absent: Ana Alfaro, Luke Bronin, Connie Green, Edward Keith, and Elizabeth Taylor

1. Introduction: President Thea Montañez called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and introduced two guests former Mayor of the City of Hartford Antonina Uccello and her sister Nellie Romaine.

2. Customer Presentation

Guest speaker Antonina Uccello (at almost 92 years old) shared her long history with Hartford Public Library – 25 years on the Board of Directors for Hartford Public Library. During her term as a Board member, she was part of the process of the expansion of the new Library.

3. President’s Report

Post retreat, two working groups were formed to focus on several key areas. The first group is the Government Relations Task Force focusing on the relationship with City and State related to funding, and the second group is the Governance Working Group comprised of the executive committee which will focus on the work of the board.

Ms. Montañez and the executive committee met with Mayor Segarra to discuss the need for increased funding and the consequences of reduced funding. Mr. Poland and CAO Mary Tzambazakis will meet with City budget staff to explore possibilities.

Ms. Montañez presented Mr. Poland a gift from the Board for his new granddaughter.

4. Chief Executive Officer’s Report

The Chief Executive Officer’s report was distributed in advance.

Mr. Poland thanked Mrs. Donna Haghghat and Mrs. Jane Penfield for the work they are doing on OBSN. Last year at this time, there were \$33,000 in sponsorships and this year it is at \$68,000. As of April 1 tickets can be purchased online.

YOUmedia is in the RFP stage for construction. It is scheduled to open in the new school year. Itty Bitty City is a trademarked name therefore our early childhood lab will be called Itty Bitty Hartford.

The City has a 1% budget on public art, and has asked the Library to consider using the brick façade that faces the highway as a place to hang art for viewing by people driving in to the City. This will not be a permanent installation, rather it will be changed over time.

Mr. Poland has met with architects from UCONN who are reviewing available to combine the academic library with the public library thus giving access to the citizens of Hartford. Details to follow.

5. Policies

The vendor lists and Conflict of Interest Policy were sent via email and Ms. Tzambazakis is asking for all Board Members to complete and submit completed forms within a week.

6. Budget Presentation

Ms. Tzambazakis gave a presentation on the annual budget for FY 2014-15.

7. Consent Agenda

Board Action: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded, and approved.

8. New Business

No new business was reported.

9. Adjourn

Board Action: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. was seconded, and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew K. Poland,
Acting Secretary