



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Board of Library Trustees

Lucia Mastrangelo Meeting Room

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022 AT 6:30 PM

WATERTOWN SAVINGS BANK ROOM

MEETING MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

A. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89929814357?pwd=MUNhVHZZK3VINEVTWG1mbzE1YUswQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 2981 4357

Passcode: 569760

Or by phone: (929) 205-6099 and enter Meeting ID and Passcode

B. Public may comment through email to: skeary@watertown-ma.gov

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
 - Call to order at 6:31 PM
 - Trustees Present: Chair Leanne Hammonds, Vice Chair Shep Ferguson, Treasurer Teddy Kokors, Secretary Sara Keary, Trustee Rose Mary Su, Trustee Maja Young
 - Community Paradigm search consultant representative, Bernie Lynch, present
2. Public Forum
 - Chair Hammonds extended usual 10 minutes for Public Forum to a maximum of 30 minutes
 - Chair Hammonds permitted public comments to exceed 2 minutes per person
 - In person public comment
 - Jamie Kallestad (WFPL employee) spoke in support of Caitlin Browne for Director
 - Kazia Berkley-Cramer (WFPL employee) spoke in support of Caitlin Browne for Director
 - Daniel D'Amico (resident) spoke in support of Maria Palacio for Director
 - Jamie Kallestad (WFPL employee,) spoke in support of Caitlin Browne for Director (as public commenting extended beyond minutes and he was invited back to complete his initial comment)
 - Jacky van Leeuwen (WFPL employee) spoke in support of Maria Palacio for Director
 - Michael Cashin (WFPL employee and Union President) spoke in support of Caitlin Browne for Director
 - Elodia Thomas (Watertown Resident spoke on the search process, reflections on high quality of candidates, consideration of delaying vote Zoom participant public comment

- Elise Loukas (Watertown resident) commented on search process and responsibility of vote
- Amy Jane McWilliam (out-of-state resident) spoke in support of Maria Palico for Director as a former coworker; was notified by Chair Hammonds that public forum was for Watertown Residents and/or WFPL employees only
- Stephanie Freuh (WFPL employee) spoke in support of Caitlin Browne for Director
- Additional in-person public comment
- Taylor Devlin (WFPL employee) spoke in support of Caitlin Browne for Director
- Secretary Keary read letters from public
- Lisa Capoccia (Watertown resident) wrote in support of Maria Palacio for Director
- Rachel Kay (Watertown resident) wrote in support of Caitlin Browne for Director
- Liz Marino (Watertown resident) expressed concern that a letter of support for Caitlin Browne was signed by a library employee who was on the search committee and that letter was read before candidate interviews; expressed support for Maria Palacio for Director
- Sheila Krishnan (Watertown resident) wrote in support of Maria Palacio for Director
- Liz Helfer (Public Arts & Cultural Planner, Community Development and Planning for Watertown) wrote in support of Caitlin Browne for Director
- Ben and Roma Jerome (Watertown residents) wrote in support of Maria Palacio for Director
- Additional in-person public comment
- Aimee Lambert (WFPL employee) spoke in response to alleged breaking of Public Forum Rules where a library employee was named during the reading of public letters by Secretary Keary
- Jamie Kallestead (WFPL employee) granted permission by Chair Hammonds to speak again; commented on role of WFPL Outreach team
- 3. Consideration and Action on Appointment of Library Director
 - Trustees commented on Public Forum rules exceptions (allowing more than 2 minutes per person) due to the infrequent and significant vote on a new director
 - Trustees discussed director search and interview process
 - Trustees shared strengths of each of the three candidates
 - Each Trustee shared comments on their preferred candidates, trustee deliberation
 - Motion made for straw poll vote, second, passed unanimously
 - First vote: straw poll by candidate
 - Votes for Caitlin Browne: Trustee Kokoros, Trustee Su, Trustee Young
 - Votes for Maria Palacio: Chair Hammonds, Vice Chair Ferguson, Trustee Keary
 - Motion to take a 5 minute recess, seconded, passed unanimously
 - Further deliberation on candidates
 - Motion made for a second straw poll vote, second, passed unanimously
 - Second vote: straw poll by candidate
 - Votes for Caitlin Browne: Chair Hammonds, Trustee Kokoros, Trustee Su, Trustee Young
 - Votes for Maria Palacio: Vice Chair Ferguson and Trustee Keary
 - Motion made to appoint Caitlin Browne Library Director contingent on contract negotiations; seconded;
 - Roll call, In Favor: Chair Hammonds, Trustee Kokoros, Trustee Su, Trustee Young, Trustee Keary
 - Opposed: Vice Chair Ferguson
 - Motion made to authorize Chair Hammonds to work with City Hall to enter contract negotiations with Caitlin Browne for Library Director; seconded; passed unanimously
- 4. Adjournment
 - Motion to adjourn at 10:07 PM; seconded; passed unanimously