



HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021 ♦ 7 pm
Virtual

Board members present were: Robert Mentz, Chair; Andy Dalal, Vice Chair; Tom Munns, Treasurer; Phillip Dodge; Kelly Smith; and Antonia Watts. Also present were leadership team staff members/citizens including Dorna Anderson, Lew Belfont, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Stacey Fields, Cari Gast, Mickey Gomez, Allison Jessing, Christie Lassen, Sukie Lee, Diane Li, Brooke McCauley, Emma Ostendorp, Stephanie Shane, and other members of HCLS staff and the public who joined in.

Rob called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

The Board unanimously approved the March 17, 2021 Board meeting minutes. I explained the FY 2022 budgets approved by the County Council, which comprise a 2.6% increase in the operating budget and no funding for the capital budget. With regards to the former, this represents an additional \$568K, most of which will go toward staff funds. Tonya thanked Angela and Christie for their work throughout the budget process.

Lew presented operations during COVID-19, including statistics of library branch use and children's outdoor classes. Discussion followed on the length of the outdoor children's classes and self-check counts.

I thanked the Board for funding the HCLS racial equity initiative as well as the internal team for their efforts. We have received significant interest from staff, community and government members to replicate our work. I did note that there were a handful of people who complained about the initiative, however the overwhelming majority of people praised our efforts. I noted that 98% of participants said they learned something new and further presented laudatory quotes from participants and alliance members. HCLS will be compiling a report to share with trustees summarizing the initiative, which includes sensemaking circles that are ending this week.

Angela reported on the capital projects, reiterating that there are no additional funds for the Downtown Columbia Branch. However, we still have previously approved funds that can be used and we are still waiting to hear back on the updated TIF (tax increment financing) funding model. We have discussed the project with the Department of Public Works and an architect firm an updated estimated cost for the space. With regards to the Glenwood renovation, Angela presented images of the new space, including an outdoor patio and new classroom. She noted that we are running within budget, explaining that the County paid for carpeting out of their maintenance budget. The revised timeline slates the opening in September due to delays in furniture and materials delivery caused by the pandemic.

The Board approved the FY 2022 slate of officers, comprised of Tom Munns as Chair, Antonia Watts as Vice Chair, and Phillip Dodge as Treasurer.

I presented an update on the At-Large Vacancy, to include the County Council July dates for processing of appointments. Rob Mentz and I will testify on July 21 in support of Sabina Taj, the candidate put forth for approval.

The Board approved no changes to Supplement 4 which covers HCLS HR policies and procedures. I shared that I will come back to the board with a proposed reimagined work policy that considers our hybrid remote and in-person work. Discussion ensued on staff returning to buildings. I explained that we have not returned to pre-pandemic operations, noting that the impact of COVID is still impacting some staff and the demand from customers has not necessitated returning all staff to branches. We are likely to continue with a hybrid approach, and are

currently working through what this will look like for the team.

The Board then approved the FY 22 closings which align with the County's observance of Juneteenth.

Mickey Gomez reported on Friends & Foundation of HCLS activities, giving an update on a seasonal fundraiser that raised \$11,560, a strategic planning grant application, and the Inner Arbor Picnic Table that was designed and painted by HCLS Adult Education Instructor Jereme Scott. Rob thanked Jereme on behalf of the Board. Mickey asked that Jereme be thanked by the Friends board for his efforts.

I thanked Andy for his service, advocacy and support of HCLS as this will be his last meeting.

Rob thanked all for their updates, adjourning the meeting at 7:47 pm. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., September 22, 2021** and will be virtual unless otherwise noticed.

Respectfully submitted,



Tonya Aikens
President & CEO