



## HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021 ♦ 7 pm  
Virtual

Board members present were: Tom Munns, Chair; Antonia Watts, Vice Chair; Phillip Dodge, Treasurer; Anne Markus; Kelly Smith; and Sabina Taj. Also present were leadership team staff members/citizens including Dorna Anderson, Lew Belfont, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Vera Davies, Stacey Fields, Cari Gast, Mickey Gomez, Rohini Gupta, Allison Jessing, Kathleen Klebba, Christie Lassen, Sukie Lee, Carol Lundell, Tanya Malveaux, Lauren McCloskey, Kim Montenyohl, Mai-Leng Ong, Emma Ostendorp, Alastair Sadler, Ben Sfanos, Stephanie Shane, Katherine Wilkins, and Tracy Yamamoto.

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The Board unanimously approved the September 22, 2021 Board meeting minutes, with the modification to add Anne Markus to the attendees. I introduced the Operations Update with having staff telling the impact story of HCLS efforts. Lew elaborated that there are programs happening in branches where public service staff are working with the community. As part of this effort, each branch is mapping community assets. This will enable us to renew and form relationships with members and organizations in the community. Mary Brosenne spoke about the social capital in the new Makerspace at the renovated Glenwood Branch, which will draw in people who would not normally visit a library. She reported that staff is enjoying the equipment, which includes a digital memory station, a laser cutter engraver, a 3D printer, a large format printer, tinker bins, and a sound booth. Carol Lundell related her work with the local Deep Run Elementary school where 47% of students are Latinx with parents who speak limited English. As part of this effort, HCLS supplies Chromebooks and Hotspots for these parents to take part in English Conversation classes led by Project Literacy.

Christie provided an update on events to include the Equity Resource Center grand opening, which had a great turnout and is seeing large numbers of material checkouts, and the Pop Up Mobile Library which has been out to various community events. She then reported on the Undesign the Redline exhibit which offers private group tours as well as public tours. There have been 39 tours since September. The exhibit will run through February. In response to Board questions, the tour can accommodate approximately a dozen people at a time.

Referring to the Financial Status Report, I reported that we are on track for the operational budget. Dorna responded to an inquiry sharing that the negative number in Curriculum is for book replacement costs.

Angela presented the current proposed capital budget, noting that the proposed Southwest Branch has been pushed back to 2027 as we are still looking at land in the area. Funding for the Central Branch is slated to be \$82.8 Million which is proposed to be phased in over the next few years with the bulk of funding occurring in 2025 and 2026. Further funding has been put in for potential grants with the state. Discussion followed on whether it's possible to have a Storyville-like component in one of HCLS' branches. I thanked Phillip for putting a plug in for the Central Branch with the Governor's office.

Mickey Gomez updated the audience on the Friends & Foundation recent activities. The annual campaign has gone out with a focus on Tonya's vision for creating spaces for teens at the library branches. The Friends website has been updated to make it more intuitive. The donor platform has been expanded to include Stripe and QR codes. Fundraising planning has begun for Evening in the Stacks, to include online branch raffles, and a potential peer to peer element. The Friends has applied for a grant with the state for strategic planning and hopes to hear back by December 1. Mickey closed by thanking Phillip for his help in securing proceeds from Huephoria and Busboys and

Poets for the Friends.

Allison Jessing related her experience serving on the County's Public Facilities and Spaces Commission which is charged with reviewing and contextualizing the history surrounding the namesakes for public facilities and spaces. The draft findings are being reviewed by the County Executive. The plan is to decide what to do with individual facilities on a case-by-case basis, whether to rename or contextualize the facility as a teaching tool. Two HCLS facilities are included, the Miller and Savage branches. HCLS has taken on the task of reviewing the names of our meeting rooms. Allison then spoke about her participation on an Indigenous Maryland project. The project involves the development and curation of educational resources to teach Marylanders about the history of local Native and Indigenous peoples and how their heritage influences contemporary life in Maryland. The 20-month project looks to create an app and mobile web site, and includes creating land acknowledgements for our branches. Discussion ensued on positionality statements.

The Board reviewed Supplement 2 with no revisions needed.

Stephanie reported on the upcoming District 1 and District 5 board vacancies. There will be potentially two rounds of interviews, February 15-17 and February 22-24. Phillip, Kelly, Tom, Antonia, Anne volunteered to serve on the interview committee.

Tom related his participation in an interview for the state library association on board effectiveness. A survey will be coming out to all trustees for their input. The answers will be anonymous and the deadline is December 2. The end goal is to create a statewide board effectiveness toolkit.

Tom thanked all for attending, adjourning the meeting at 8:02 pm to reconvene in a closed session. Below is a summary of the closed session held on November 17, 2022.

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:
  - a. Time of closed session: 8:07-8:41 pm
  - b. Place (location) of closed session: Virtual via zoom
  - c. Purpose of the closed session: to discuss personnel matters
2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:
  - a. Names of members voting aye: Phillip Dodge, Anne Markus, Tom Munns, Kelly Smith, Sabina Taj and Antonia Watts
  - b. Members opposed: none
  - c. Members Abstaining: none
3. Statutory authority to close session: This meeting was closed under the following provisions of General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b): \ Topic #1: § 3-305(b) (x ) ◇ Topic #2: § 3-305(b) ( ) ◇ Topic #3: § 3-305(b) ( ) (add others as needed)
4. Listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:
  - a. Topic description: Personnel Matters
  - b. Persons present for discussion: Tonya Aikens, Phillip Dodge, Stacey Fields, Anne Markus, Tom Munns, Kelly Smith, Sabina Taj and Antonia Watts
  - c. Action Taken/Each Recorded Vote #1: #2: #3: Personnel hearing scheduled. Vote was unanimous

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., January 19, 2022** and will be virtual unless otherwise noticed.

Respectfully submitted,



Tonya Aikens

President & CEO