

Lewiston Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
September 5th, 2024 5:30 PM
Minutes

Trustees present: Ed Barrett, Marissa Deku, Karen Choate, Mariah Pfeiffer, Strawberry Pinkham, Julie Colangelo, Carl Sheline, Tu Biederman, Tetiana Cherednichenko (arrival at 5:35)

Absent: Ellen Hodgkin

Staff present: Joey Houston

APL Representative: None Present

Community Members: Aleks Diamond-Stanic and Julia Harper

Meeting called to order: Tu called meeting to order at 5:32pm

1. Acceptance of Minutes for the July 11th, 2024 board meeting

Motion: Karen

2nd: Strawberry

Vote: Unanimous

2. APL Board Report

- No update as no APL member was present nor did an LPL board member attend the last meeting.
- APL Meetings LPL Reps: September 24th- Tu and October 22nd: Mariah

3. Campaign Committee Report (Ed Reporting)

- Saturday's training 9:30 arrival for board members. Lots of information to come.

4. Director's Report:

a. Policy Review

i. Ethical Investing

1. The document created by the ethics sub-committee was shared with the board along with a letter from the community for the board to review.
2. Ed: Investment policy aligns with the city policy. If approved, the library director would work with RM Davis to make any changes needed to the

investments as per Board Bylaws. We are waiting on an ESG report from RM Davis at this time. We are asking for more information from RM Davis and that they report back to the board on a regular basis about investments that are high risk. This only is for direct investments not bond(s) investment.

3. Tu: We have a new advisor and this is a good time to discuss concerns. We would like to have a written policy for staff, community, and the investment firm to use as the basis for our work. I look forward to having a statement.
4. Ed: What are our values as a board/library?
5. Joey: Conversations with RM Davis is that these changes wouldn't diminish our ability to get good returns.
6. Public Comment: Aleks- Broadly it looks great, what are the board's values? There are some suggestions that we have. 1st bullet point: could the quoted text from the letter be included within the 1st guiding principles in the policy.
7. Public Comment Julia: By using the Investigate tool by the investment manager it would show what places where divest should happen.
8. Public Comment Alex: City of Portland passed a resolution to Divest public monies in Palestine. (He shared copies with the board)
9. Mariah spoke with the AFSC and the impression is that they do their research and for each one on the list. If there is a single piece of the company no matter how small it is added to the list. It could be that their primary investment is not something of concern.
10. Tu: Can we compare ESG and Investigate. What global event triggers the AFSC investigation?
11. Joey: When brought to RM Davis. The two groups we discussed have identified the two groups as High Risk.
12. Fossil fuels is another area to examine.
13. Carl: I have some opposition- a lot of pressure on universities to divest but a very small number have. Concerns that directly impact Maine

looking at the list from Portland.

14. Tu would support the document as is and create more operational document to look at the other companies.
15. Mariah- if we approve tonight as written, we would divest from these 2 companies. Would go public with policy, and move forward on the full ethics policy. There are additional steps to consider. Do we want to adopt this document?

Motion by Ed: Move to approve the policy as presented

Second: Karen

16. Public Comment: Alex- amendment presented (would need board motion)

17. Carl PR Concerns: sounds like this will pass however there hasn't been wide support nationwide to divest. The campaign is about to happen. Could there be a concern in the community and how do we respond? Shouldn't stop our decision but we need to have a thoughtful response.

18. Joey: By laws allows for decisions to happen but does not make a specific list with the exception of RTX and Northrop and Fossil Fuels by the director.

19. Tu: This document will be a frame for our discussion. We are investing the public's money.

20. Ed: we could adopt policy without the General Paragraph at end.

21. Marissa: This would allow for us to make changes without changing Policy every time.

Motion: Ed amending eliminating the 4 bullets.

Carl: 2nd

No further discussion

Vote on amendment:

yea- 6

nay- 3

Amendment passes.

Further Discussion of the amendmended document, seeing none

Vote on ammdended docuement:

Yea: 9

Nay: 0

Ed: Recommendation to give the director the authority to the investment in Northrup and RTX, and Fossil Fuels. No opposition.

Future action: Ed: Language of human rights violations (will work with Alex) to add to full ethics document.

b. Hiring Updates

- i. Lending services librarian- identified, hired in June. They were moving from Boston. They backed out of their positions the week they were to start.
 1. Joey has posted on ALA job search, ends on 10th.
 2. Start search over. Full timers are doing well. Incidents have been down and minor and security has helped.
- ii. Adult services technician- left to take another job. Has about 40 Applicants to date.
- iii. Building Monitor
 1. 4 offers and 4 refusals. Still seeking candidates.
 2. Carl- We need one! Encourage people to apply.
- iv. Deputy Director Posting
 1. LPL is the largest library in the state only one without a deputy position in the state of Maine
 2. Not an additional position but a role change for manager.

c. HVAC Report

- i. Still not fixed. Not a clear path to getting it fixed. Johnsons controls say nothing is wrong with their system but LPL did not put in the right system. It was a replacement and not upgrade. Public Works is working on proposals to cut down on humidity. Some solutions: 12 times a week to change settings or coil changing which would affect efficiency.
- ii. More conversations to come for a long-term solution. Carl will follow up with city departments.
- iii. Ed: 3rd party needs to come and evaluate. How can this be fixed?

- d. State Library Van Delivery
 - i. Has started up again. Lending has started, Some bumps but Joey is comfortable that they will work out. With Lewiston having 5 deliveries a week we have seen good work so far. Some smaller libraries are having a harder time.

- e. Bates Letter of Interest –
 - i. Motion to support the materials being loaned to Bates after the loan agreement is signed giving Joey authority to work this agreement out- Marissa
 - ii. 2nd: Karen
 - iii. Unanimous

- f. Appointment of Objectives Committee
 - i. Tu and Marissa are willing to serve. (will decide on a Thursday to meet with Management team and communicate with Joey)

Adjournment: 7:46

Motion: Ed

Second: Strawberry

All in favor

Next Board Meeting: October 3rd

Respectfully submitted by Marissa Deku