

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Board/ Commission: Library Commission	
Date of Meeting: December 7, 2022	
Contact information preparing summary: Celia Seaton	
Commission members present: Jane Sykes Wilson, Steven Frost, Scott Steinbrecher, Benita Duran, Sylvia Wirba	
Commission members not present: None	
Library staff present: David Farnan, Library Director Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director Celia Seaton, Board Secretary Guest: Chris Barge, Executive Director of Boulder Library Foundation (BLF) City staff present: None. Members of the public present: None.	
Type of Meeting: Regular Hybrid on Zoom and onsite at the Brenton Building	
Agenda Item 1: Review of Online Meeting Guidelines	[0:00:26 Audio min.]
Agenda Item 2: Reminder: Commissioners please log monthly volunteer hours Count Me In Boulder [0:00:39 Audio min.] The Commission logged their service.	
Agenda Item 3: Approval of agenda	[0:01:19 Audio min.]
The meeting was called to order and Sykes Wilson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There was a nod of approval from the commission for the agenda, amended with an additional discussion after Item 6 to finalize the 2023 library commissioner application interview questions.	
Agenda Item 4: Public comment	[0:02:07 Audio min.]
None.	
Agenda Item 5: Consent agenda	[0:02:17 Audio min.]
a. Approval of November 2022 Meeting Minutes: Frost moved to approve these minutes and Wirba seconded. The motion was unanimously approved with the exception of Duran who abstained due to absence.	
Agenda Item 6: Guest – Chris Barge, Executive Director for Boulder Library Foundation [0:03:00 Audio min.] Reflecting on the recent passing of ballot measure 6C establishing a library district and looking forward to construction of the first new library building in a generation, Barge expressed excitement at visiting the commission on the cusp of what he deems “The Year of the Boulder Public Library.” Barge recently sent a message to city council and the county commissioners discussing the district transition and library advocacy. While appointing the district trustees, he recommended that the committee focus on choosing candidates that cover geographic and skill-based needs within the district area. He acknowledged existing community differences in opinion about policy, but with the passing of the ballot measure he encouraged a unified spirit of collaboration: “I know that we all want our libraries to thrive.” Barge expects BLF will continue to be in communication with city council and county commissioners as the district forms. He noted that the Boulder Library Champion’s advocacy role is now made “extinct” by its successful end to the campaign. As the library can now rely on the district model for stable funding to create a financial “floor,” BLF can focus now more than ever beyond backfilling maintenance services. Donors can “dream about bells and whistles” to create the kind of library system the community wants and deserves. Barge announced BLF’s recently successful application for a \$700,000 grant (the maximum awarded) from the Colorado Health Foundation’s (CHF) funding opportunity: Infusing Equity into Built Environment for Better Health . These monies will go toward building out the play space planned for the new north Boulder library . This feature nearly went unrealized due to budgetary constraint. CHF’s awarding of the maximum amount of funding possible strongly affirms the	

comprehensive work that led by Public Services Manager Antonia Gaona in partnership with [Growing Up Boulder](#). Barge spoke enthusiastically about the future north Boulder cultural campus destinations connected by playgrounds and parks.

Duran wondered whether contribution from the city side was required or involved in this funding opportunity. Barge explained that BLF is the grantee and the amount will be directly delivered to the district. The playground plan involved massive engagement in 2020 with Crestview Elementary School and had only been set aside due to budget restrictions.

Duran praised the collaboration with children in creating the design of the playground space “with and for kids – pretty powerful.” Commission encouraged re-engagement of the same previous 3rd and 5th grade students to gain a newly matured perspective. The directors of Growing Up Boulder and BLF do plan to reach out to these participants.

Seeking out and successfully achieving this funding opportunity directly correlates to the fundraising arm of BLF's new comprehensive strategic implementation plan. The three other categories include advocacy and awareness, communication, and sustainable operation.

Barge provided an update that board members Alicia Gibb and Nicole Sager are currently serving as co-chairs for BLF. Jen Yee is seated as secretary and Isaac Andres as treasurer. Following Gibb's departure, it is expected that Sager will continue as chair.

Responding to Sykes Wilson's request, Barge agreed to relay an executive summary for BLF's Strategic Plan.

Regarding the recent election, Duran praised the Library Champion's professionally run campaign effort. She recommended finding strategy to engage the 49% opposition evidenced by the community's vote. Barge believes that previous polling indicated strong support for the library funding within the district area. He thinks that some didn't agree with the specific policy proposal. He hopes the district formation and activation with the new funding will start to “calm the nerves” of those who voted against the measure in the coming years.

Discussing precinct breakdown, Farnan noted that Gunbarrel residents voted overwhelmingly in favor of district formation. In Boulder, precincts of voters who live east of Broadway indicated much stronger support than those who live west of Broadway. Generally, any densely populated area voted in favor. Barge observed that the last third of the vote returns came in as overwhelmingly positive.

Steinbrecher observed that the community appeared “pretty divided” over the library district vote. He noted that some people expressed frustration at how segments of the opposition acted or potentially were involved in the spread of “misinformation.” He encouraged planning for the “next game.” The public, including past opposition, will need to be engaged at the next mill levy increase. He emphasized the necessity for demonstrated value of the community's property tax cost. Staff noted that a further mill levy increase wouldn't be needed for another 30 years.

Commission thanked Barge for visiting; it shares his vision of a promising and exciting future for the library.

Agenda Item 6: Library Commissioner Application Questions [0:37:22 Audio min.]

Commission discussed final revisions to these applicant interview [questions](#) and finalized the list as below:

- 1. Please describe your participation in other community organizations. How has your involvement in the community led you to applying for the library commission?***
- 2. Considering a review of docs related to the Master Planning process, what are your thoughts about the decisions and plans?***
- 3. The Boulder Public Library balances traditional definitions of library services with innovation around informal learning, collaboration, literacy and 21st century skills. In your advisory role, what is your vision for the future of our library?***
- 4. In the upcoming year, the library will begin its transition into a district. Please share an experience you have had with organizational change and what you would like to contribute to this process.***

Agenda Item 7: Transition to The Boulder Library District [0:57:40 Audio min.]

See [packet](#) for memo detailing process for appointment of the Library District Board of Trustees, Board of Trustee roles and responsibilities, and the roles of the Library Commission during the transition.

Farnan relayed that City Council has officially appointed two of its members to the committee that will choose the district's first trustees. This team will consist of Mayor Aaron Brockett and Nicole Speer from Boulder City Council and Boulder

County Commissioners Marta Loachamin and Claire Levy. Discussions will commence shortly among the committee members to identify and prioritize steps for the transition to library district. By March, a slate of candidates will be appointed for the library district board of trustees, and the board will be seated after approval of a 2/3 majority vote of approval from both council and the Boulder County Board of Commissioners. The board of trustees will then have 90 days to work out an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with finalization of the document expected in July 2023 if without need for extension.

Farnan explained that the library as a body will not be a part of the trustee process. Library staff is currently preparing a comprehensive packet of materials to support the future trustee members in understanding the scope of library system operations. Farnan expects “a heavy lift” for the trustees during their first year of board work while forming and packaging staff benefits and human resource frameworks. He estimated that the members should expect to dedicate around 20-30 hours of work each month until the successful transition of staff. The Library District Advisory Committee had recommended that library staff transfer foreseen the staff transferring in their entirety, keeping salaries benefit and titles to the extent possible with a district scenario.

Agenda Item 8: Library and Arts Director’s Report

[1:18:57 Audio min.]

- a. 2022 2nd Adjustment to Base Budget – City Council approved the 2nd Adjustment to Base Budget (ATB) requests during its second reading on Dec. 1, 2022. All submitted Library requests were approved. Staff noted the corrected sum of the capital expenses as \$2,267,915.
- b. Video Recordings of Board and Commission Meetings
- c. Racial equity training for board/commission members – Commission discussed the opportunity to engage with Advancing Racial Equity training. Staff will return in January with more information on the nature and structure of the training session options. Sykes Wilson pondered including the training in a regularly scheduled commission meeting after learning more about the opportunity and reviewing the upcoming calendar of agenda topics.
- d. Update on the changes to Library Rules of Conduct

Agenda Item 9: Items from Library Commission

[1:30:02 Audio min.]

- a. Updates from commissioners representing the Commission in other venues (verbal) – with the disbanding of Boulder Library Champions, final finance reports will be filed by the end of the year, and the online presence will be archived. The former Library Champions website properties will now be under BLF purview.
- b. Boulder Library Foundation (BLF) update (Steinbrecher/Koenig) – Frost: recent gala was “fantastic” and one of the best events of that sort they had attended in recent years. They appreciated all the city staff and volunteers who engaged in this celebration and end of year gift giving. They enjoyed sampling the new café offerings in the catering spread. The pledge drive surpassed the original goal of \$60,000 by an additional \$17,000, marking the fundraiser a distinct success.
- c. Update on emails and phone calls to Library Commission – none.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

[1:36:50 Audio min.]

All are invited to a staff holiday party on December 15th.

Frost will be leading the upcoming Book Queeries discussion for teen patrons, discussing *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman.

Sykes Wilson noted her family’s recent interactions with the library’s Teen Space. Her 6th grader who once attended storytime offerings in Children’s now enjoys and feels strongly engaged with the Teen programming. She appreciates how the library’s offerings “grow” with her child through development. She praised staff as the “people that you want around your kids,” a meaningful compliment from the parent of a teenager.

There being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

Date, time, and location of next meeting:

The next Library Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at the Carnegie Library for Local History.

Commissioner Sykes Wilson approved these minutes on January 4, 2023; and Celia Seaton attested to it.