



**BOYDEN LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Boyden Library, Fuller Conference Room
10 Bird Street, Foxborough, MA 02035
6:00 P.M.

In Attendance: Chairman Collin Earnst, Clerk C. Igo Freeman, Joyce Parlapiano, Katherine Udden.
Anisul Chowdhury joined at 6:10 p.m.

Not in Attendance: Vice Chairman Kevin Penders

Others Present: Assistant Town Manager/HR Director Michael Johns, Resident Arthur Muldoon, FOL Member Charles DiPompo, Boyden staff member Suzanne Roberts, and Library Director candidate Elisabeth “Libby” O’Neill.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Earnst.

Public Input: None

Interview with Library Director Candidate Finalist:

C. Earnst prefaced the meeting by explaining the process used to hire the next library director. He then introduced Elisabeth “Libby” O’Neill to the Trustees who were not on the search committee. C. Earnst asked Libby to tell the group about herself and provide details of her work experience. Libby explained that she comes from the Norfolk Library and prior to that she worked at the Elizabeth Taber Library in Marion, MA. She emphasized one of her biggest prides is reaching out to the community and supporting area organizations. She especially likes how the staff and Trustees at Boyden take ownership and are engaged. Libby was asked a pointed question about expanding the YA area and how best to bring it to fruition. She explained that Norfolk does not have a YA librarian but she said it is a much-needed position and every library should have one. She explained that one of the librarians in Norfolk splits her time to cover in that position. She said since her tenor in Norfolk, they created a “teen space” complete with charging areas and nice comfortable furniture. They provide programing in the library but also provide passive programs. Some of the areas of focus in Norfolk are social media to chat about books, cooking clubs, and there are fun knick-knacks in that area too. K. Udden asked Libby, “What keeps you up at night?”. Libby replied, “Always trying to find new programs and thinking about outreach to the community.” Libby said she considers the library a gathering place and therefore, strives to create programs to spark the interest of all age groups. A. Muldoon stated that he considers the library a community center. Libby agreed and added the library is the only place in town that provides services for every resident, no matter what age. Mr. DiPompo asked, “How do you access ideas around the state/country?”. Libby explained that she searches on-line, looks at other libraries to see what they are doing, views free on-line courses, looks at social media, and attends Massachusetts directors zoom calls. She was the creator and promoter of “Coffee Talk” in Norfolk which was a phenomenal way to discuss

ideas and find out what the patrons want and need. J. Parlapiano asked about Libby's experience with book clubs. Libby replied that she loves leading book clubs and she currently leads two in Norfolk and working on a third through the COA. A. Muldoon asked if she currently has a book club for men. Libby said the history book club is geared for men and is very successful in Norfolk. She said the beer tasting night, Ted Reinstein, and the author who came in to talk about fishing the Cape Cod Canal were equally successful. A. Muldoon asked her thoughts on acquiring a pool table and if she believes the library should be a quiet place. Libby said the library should not be quiet but there should be quiet spaces. S. Roberts asked, "How do you interact with the staff and do you have meetings/take input?" Libby said she believes staff give valuable feedback and said it is important for her to know how she can help staff in their role(s). She also informed the Board she meets with department heads frequently too. M. Johns asked what her all-time favorite book was. Libby replied, "The Storied Life of A.J. Fickry." She explained, it's a story about a cranky book store owner who finds an abandoned baby in his shop and raises the child. There are book references sprinkled in the plot so she loved it given her profession as a librarian.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Director Candidate Finalist:

Libby was asked to wait outside the conference room. C. Earnst then opened up the discussion to those in the room to ask any questions relative to this finalist. S. Roberts asked the Board about her experience with unions. It was confirmed that she comes from a library where staff are union and that she has experience in that area. After hearing no other concerns, C. Earnst asked to put a motion on the table to recommend the hire of Elisabeth "Libby" O'Neill as the next Director of the Boyden Library.

Upon a motion by J. Parlapiano and second by A. Chowdhury, the Board voted to recommend hiring Elisabeth "Libby" O'Neill as the next Library Director of the Boyden Library. All were in favor and the motion was approved 5-0-0.

M. Johns said the next step is to negotiate salary and benefits with himself and Town Manager B. Keegan. According to M. Johns that meeting will hopefully happen tomorrow, February 17, 2022 and the candidate will subsequently be brought before the BOS for their approval within the next few weeks.

Upon a motion by K. Udden and second by C. Igo Freeman, the Board voted to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. All were in favor and the motion was approved 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Riccio