

**QUEENS LIBRARY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432 on Thursday, October 24, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice Chair of the Board, Robert Santos Esq.

**I. Roll Call**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Haeda Mihaltses	Chair of the Board	Excused	
Robert Santos, Esq.	Vice Chair of the Board	Present	
Earl G. Simons, Ed. D	Secretary	Present	
Lydon Sleeper O'Connell	Treasurer	Excused	
Eli Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW	Assistant Treasurer	Present	
Judy E. Bergtraum, Esq.	Board Member	Present	
Julissa Gutierrez	Board Member	Excused	
Matthew M. Gorton	Board Member	Present	
James M. Haddad, Esq.	Board Member	Present	
Pauline Healey	Board Member	Present	
Andrew P. Jackson	Board Member	Present	
Deborah King	Board Member	Present	
Carl S. Koerner, Esq.	Board Member	Present	
Michael E. Rodriguez, Esq.	Board Member	Present	
George Russo, Esq.	Board Member	Present	
Edward Sadowsky, Esq.	Board Member	Excused	
Terri Thomson	Board Member	Present	
Eve Cho Guillergan, Esq.	Rep - Speaker	Excused	
Allan Swisher, Esq.	Rep - Borough President	Present	

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Udai Tambar	Rep - Mayor's Office	Excused	
Michael Twomey, Esq.	Rep - Public Advocate	Present	
Jimmy Yan	Rep - Comptroller	Excused	
Dennis M. Walcott	President & CEO	Present	
Nick Buron	Chief Librarian & Sr. VP	Present	
Sung Mo Kim, Esq.	General Counsel & Sr. VP.	Present	
Gitte Peng	Chief of Staff & Sr. VP.	Present	
Michael Tragale	Chief Financial Officer & Sr. VP.	Present	
Jonathan Chung	Director of Government Affairs	Present	
Justin Carroll, Esq.	Associate General Counsel	Present	
Vishnu Dawah	Controller, Finance	Present	
Elizabeth de Bourbon	Director of Communications, GCA	Present	
William Funk	Director of Procurement	Present	
William Goldband	VP, Information, Technology & Development	Present	
Sara Hausner-Levine, Esq.	Deputy General Counsel	Present	
John Katimaris	VP, Capital Projects	Present	
Amy Mugavaro	Executive Director, QPLF	Present	
James Phelan	Director of Investigation & Security Department	Present	

**II. Approval of BOT Minutes**

**1. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting (ID # 2086)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration:**

*I move that the Minutes of the Board of Trustees and Committee meetings be approved as submitted.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Andrew P. Jackson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Pauline Healey
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D., Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum, Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq., Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

**III. Report of the Chairman of the Board**

Robert Santos, acting chair of the board, welcomed Michael Twomey, Esq., representative for Jumaane D. Williams, NYC Public Advocate.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. Buildings & Grounds Committee - October 24, 2019**

**1. Approval of the Building & Grounds Committee Report (ID # 2087)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration:**

*I move that the report item(s) of the committee meeting be accepted and the action item(s) be approved as presented.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Judy E. Bergtraum, Esq.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah King
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D., Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum, Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq., Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

**B. Finance Investments Committee - October 24, 2019**

**1. Approval of the Finance & Investments Committee Report (ID # 2088)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration:**

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*I move that the report item(s) of the committee meeting be accepted and the action item(s) be approved as presented.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Eli Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW
<b>SECONDER:</b>	James M. Haddad, Esq.
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D, Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum, Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq., Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

## V. President's Report

Mr. Walcott gave the Board a brief report regarding library fines. He reported that Queens Public Library, along with New York Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library, have been considering the possibility of fines elimination as a way to increase access and eliminate barriers to our resources. In 2017, the three library systems implemented a youth amnesty initiative, and for many years, Queens Public Library has had a Read Down Your Fines program for people up to age 21 because of our commitment to making library resources as accessible as possible to the many people who count on us. The libraries are specifically looking at the elimination of late/overdue fines, not lost materials. Many library systems across the country have eliminated fines for some or all of their customers. Any policy change would require Board approval and a sustainable funding source. We will continue to discuss with and update the Board on this issue.

### 1. Key Performance Indicators Report - September 2019 (ID # 2080)

## VI. Other Business

### 1. State Aid for Public Library Construction (ID # 2085)

#### **Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:**

*I move that the Board of Trustees read and adopt the assurances that accompany the State construction grant applications in the amount of \$2,939,662.00 as well as approve the signing of the Assurances by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, for the renovation and installation of fixtures at the Far Rockaway Community Library.*

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<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James M. Haddad, Esq.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Earl G. Simons, Ed. D.
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D., Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum, Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq., Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

**2. Election of New Members to Queens Library Foundation Board of Directors (ID # 2091)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:**

*I move that the Library Board of Trustees approve the election of Paula Kirby to the Class of 2020 of the Queens Library Foundation Board of Directors.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Carl S. Koerner, Esq.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Terri Thomson
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D., Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq., Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

**3. Motion to Go into Executive Session (ID # 2089)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration:**

*I move that the meeting move into Executive Session to discuss legal regarding Hunters Point and personnel matters regarding the hiring of general counsel.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Andrew P. Jackson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah King
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D., Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq., Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

**4. Motion to Return to Public Session (ID # 2090)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration:**

*I move that the meeting return to Public Session.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James M. Haddad, Esq.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael E. Rodriguez, Esq.
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D, Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum, Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo Esq., Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

**5. Resolution - Key Executive Personnel (ID # 2096)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:**

*I move that the following resolution be adopted as presented by the Board of Trustees:*

**RESOLUTION**

**General Counsel and Sr. VP**

**WHEREAS**, the Library’s By-Laws provide, in pertinent part, that, with the exception of the President and Chief Executive Officer, the other key executive personnel of the Library be appointed by the President and Chief Executive Officer with the consent of the Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, Dennis M. Walcott, the Library’s President and Chief Executive Officer, has selected Justin Deabler as General Counsel and Senior Vice President, subject to the Board of Trustee’s consent.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, after due deliberation, the Board of Trustees consent to the appointment of Mr. Deabler to the position of General Counsel and Senior Vice President.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Judy E. Bergtraum, Esq.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Matthew M. Gorton
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D., Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum, Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq, Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

**VII. Adjournment**

**1. Motion to Adjourn (ID # 2079)**

**Recommended Motion for Consideration:**

*I move that the meeting be adjourned.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [Unanimous]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James M. Haddad, Esq.
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Matthew M. Gorton
<b>AYES:</b>	Santos, Esq., Simons, Ed. D., Shapiro, Ed. D., LCSW, Bergtraum, Esq., Gorton, Haddad, Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner, Esq., Rodriguez, Esq., Russo, Esq, Thomson
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Haeda Mihaltses, Lydon Sleeper O'Connell, Julissa Gutierrez, Edward Sadowsky, Esq.

The meeting was closed at 8:16 PM.

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**Secretary**