

**Thomas Crane Public Library
Board of Trustees
Minutes of January 10, 2011 Board Meeting**

Trustees Present:

Sandra McCauley, Chair; Harold Crowley, Janet DiTullio, Secretary; Larry Falvey, Treasurer; Mary Reed

Staff Present:

Ann McLaughlin, Director; Diane Costagliola, Deb Rich, Fran Ryan

Others Present:

Harry Williams III, incoming Director

Call to Order:

Sandra McCauley, Chair welcomed the Board members and guests and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Approval Meeting Minutes:

Sandra McCauley, Chair, asked for comments, additions, or corrections to the Board's meeting minutes of December 13, 2010. Hearing none, Mary Reed moved and Harold Crowley seconded approval of the minutes. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Larry Falvey, Treasurer, presented the expenditures for the Gift Account in the amount of \$521.34 and the Literacy Account in the amount of \$350.36. Mrs. McCauley called for comments, additions, or corrections. Hearing none Janet DiTullio moved and Mary Reed seconded the report. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Director's Report:

1. Ann McLaughlin, Director, read into the minutes her report that was a review and accomplishments of her tenure with the Thomas Crane Library and work with the Board of Trustees (see Attachment A to the minutes of 1/10/11).
Mrs. McCauley called for a motion to accept the report. Mr. Crowley moved and Janet DiTullio seconded the motion. The Board unanimously accepted the report and applauded Ms. McLaughlin for her outstanding tenure as Director.
2. Mr. Crowley asked for a motion to recognize Ms. McLaughlin for her outstanding service to the Library. Mrs. McCauley moved and Janet DiTullio seconded the motion. The Board unanimously accepted the motion.
3. Mr. Crowley read into the minutes a perspective of Ann McLaughlin's outstanding tenure (see Attachment B to minutes of 1/10/11).

Old Business:

1. Harry William III was reintroduced to the Board by Mrs. McCauley. Mr. Williams updated the Board on his activities involving the Mayor, Personnel Department, and paper work needed to move into the position of director. He will begin his duties as director on February 7, 2011, leaving a gap between his beginning date and Ms. McLaughlin's retirement date of January 28, 2011.
2. Mrs. McCauley distributed a folder with information she and Mrs. Reed compiled to obtain and contact Mr. Williams' references following the 3 to 2 motion to nominate him as director.
3. Ms. McLaughlin presented the revised Thomas Crane Public Library Safe Child Policy (see Attachment to the agenda of 1/10/11).
Mrs. McCauley called for a motion to approve the revised policy. Harold Crowley moved and Larry Falvey seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Safe Child Policy revision.
4. Ms. McLaughlin presented the Thomas Crane Public Library revised Circulation Policy (see Attachment to the agenda of 1/10/11).
Mrs. McCauley called for a motion to approve the Circulation Policy revision. Janet DiTullio moved and Larry Falvey seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Circulation Policy revision.

New Business:

1. Mrs. McCauley called for a motion to change the opening time of the Board meetings from 9:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Janet DiTullio moved and Harold Crowley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The opening time change will be reviewed at the February Board Meeting.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Trustees will be held on February 14, 2011, at 9:15 a.m. The Board will meet in the Quincy Room on the second floor of the library.

Attachment A

Director's Report
January 10, 2011

I would like to begin by thanking the Board of Trustees for its work on behalf of the library. The difficulty of the recent selection process for a new director does not diminish the many wonderful things we have accomplished together.

It has been my honor to have served as the eleventh director of the Thomas Crane Public Library. When I was hired in January 1971 I had no idea that one day I would become the library director. I was always certain that public libraries were where I would work. I was drawn to the mission of public libraries which were founded to be a cornerstone of our democracy, and remain as essential to our democratic process in 2011 as they were in 1870 when the first public libraries were established in America.

I was raised in a family which loved books and reading. One of my earliest memories is of my parents sitting side by side on the couch reading. Books were always the preferred and favorite gifts in our house. I remember getting my first library card, and the thrill of visiting this library on a school field trip when the Richardson building was the children's room. What a way to become inspired by libraries.

I was fortunate to have been hired by Warren Watson, a man who believed in encouraging his staff to grow, to try new ideas, and to keep learning. He had no need to be the center of attention. He taught us the value of working together as a team and of supporting each other's efforts. He rejoiced in our individual achievements, and we learned that when one of us was successful, the whole institution benefitted.

Mr. Watson was hired in 1968 to try to develop a program to build an addition to the main library. Twenty-five years later when he retired, his final official task was to sign the papers to purchase the property next to the library onto which the new addition was to be built. His dream became my life as the first eight years of my tenure as director were taken up with building community support, obtaining funding, developing the plans, and overseeing the construction of this magnificent, award winning library addition. The past nine years have been spent expanding services, developing new programs, and introducing the world of the library to thousands of new users. People came to the library in record numbers. Our wonderful Friends of the Library group become one of the largest in the state, doubling its membership in the past two years. Working tirelessly they raised money to fund many of the more than 700 programs offered which were attended by over 19,000 people, more than attended programs at the main library of Boston Public Library. The public used library computers an average of 9000 sessions each week. The library website, which has become a virtual branch library, had over 15 million hits. The staff consistently provided such outstanding services that the Quincy Library became synonymous with excellence. Our literacy program, which recently celebrated its twenty-fifth year, became a national model. Our staff is sought out to participate in local, state and national conferences to share with other librarians how we have accomplished so much in Quincy.

The library staff has written and obtained over \$15 million in grants while I have been director, receiving federal, state and private foundation grants to expand the services available to the community.

While the public demand for services continues to increase, city funding has decreased, bringing us to the current fiscal year in which our budget is less than the FY'02 budget. The past two year budgets have been a 20% reduction in library funding, with a reduction of 5 FTE staff members, while the library is literally twice as busy as it was in 2002. Staff continues to rise to the challenge, to implement new services, to seek additional funding, to develop community partnerships and to provide the excellent services for which we are known. I am very proud of the work we have accomplished together.

I am one of the few people I know who can say that I am as passionate today about the work I do as I was when I began. I believe the public library is one of the greatest institutions our country has created. People still believe in libraries even when public skepticism about all publicly funded services is at an all time high. Libraries do change people's lives. Come to our literacy recognition events and listen to the students tell about that. Watch our children's programs and see the light in a young child's eyes as the magical world of books unfolds. Attend one of the hundreds of programs we offer each year and listen to the enthusiasm and enjoyment from people from all walks of life, from many different backgrounds and ages, coming together to share in a library program.

The library's future is entrusted to this board and to all future boards to sustain the vision and mission which has served the city of Quincy so well, to fight for a fair share of the city budget, to seek ways to support and sustain the library and branches, and to encourage and support the wonderful library staff. I am proud to become part of the history of this library. It is time for a new chapter to begin. I wish my successor the best. This is a very special place.

Attachment B

**Statement Upon the Retirement of Library Director Ann McLaughlin
(Meeting of the TCPL Board of Trustees on January 10, 2010)
By Harold Crowley**

Ann and I have been friends for the past 37 years. I became acquainted with Ann when she was a librarian at the Adams Shore Branch Library and I was a teacher at the Snug Harbor School in Germantown. Ann was one of the founding members of the Germantown Heritage Society, formed originally to celebrate the city's 350th Anniversary and the nation's Bicentennial. Even then, Ann showed her creative side when she helped to organize community programs at the Adams Shore Library focusing on bringing the community together in a common cause.

Over the years we've always kept in touch and I've watched her progression through the various positions at the Thomas Crane ultimately ending as the library's director.

Ann's strong and vibrant personality has made the Thomas Crane Public Library the outstanding library that it is today. She has assembled and led a first-class staff that is the envy of other libraries throughout the state. Her ingrained self-confidence and encouragement has allowed her staff to be creative and shine on their own right resulting in some outstanding programs at the library.

Under Ann's leadership, the library has been in the forefront in developing library programs equal and exceeding those found in any other library in the state. She has made the Thomas Crane a true community center for Quincy's citizens whether they be children, teens, parents, or seniors.

With her encouragement and support, the library has one of the largest (if not the largest) Friends organizations in the state – 630 members strong – that has given the staff the resources they need to put on outstanding programs, provide free museum passes, and insure that the library continues to have the support of the community-at-large.

Under her leadership and with the creative input of her staff and the support of the city, she has created an outstanding 21st century library facility that is the envy of all. The renovated library reflects the best in library design, a collaboration with the architect who truly listened and acted upon the input from those who worked there as well as the community they served.

As the city has changed so has the library. Ann has initiated and supported programs serving the city's growing immigrant population. She was the catalyst behind the creation of an adult literacy program which has changed the lives of countless adults who for the first time have learned to read. She respects each and every library user, regardless of their circumstances, and tries to assist them in any way that she can. She can be firm but always tries to be fair!

Ann has been the heart of the library during her tenure as director and her departure will leave a large void among her staff as well as the community-at-large. After 40 years of service to the City of Quincy she certainly deserves a break and all of us wish her a happy and productive "retirement."