

**TRUSTEES OF FORBES LIBRARY**  
**Special Meeting of June 1, 2016**

**Present:** Mr. Carrier, Ms. Downing, Ms. Hess, Ms. Moulding, Ms. Reall, Ms. Sheirer, Mr. Twarog, Ms. Wight.

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM in the Coolidge Museum.

**Legal Matter (Executive Session)**

At 1:08 PM, Mr. Twarog moved that the Trustees go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation since discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Trustees. Ms. Hess seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, with Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hess, Ms. Reall, Mr. Twarog, and Ms. Wight all voting in favor. The Trustees invited Ms. Downing, Ms. Moulding, and Ms. Sheirer to remain as guests at the executive session. Mr. Carrier, Ms. Downing, Ms. Hess, Ms. Moulding, Ms. Reall, Ms. Sheirer, Mr. Twarog, and Ms. Wight were present during the executive session.

Mr. Carrier distributed copies of a press release he wrote and an edited version done by Attorney Sandra Lucentini about the legal dispute with the city over library governance. Ms. Moulding distributed a list of talking points that she and Ms. Downing are presenting to the City Council this evening when they appear before the budget committee.

Mr. Carrier reported that he has spoken with Larry Parnass, editor of the Daily Hampshire Gazette, and reporter Dan Crowley who is working on an article about the dispute. The Trustees would like to supply the press release to Mr. Crowley and Mr. Parnass for background information and to present the Trustees' point of view. The Trustees would like to correct the misperception that the library instigated the dispute. The Trustees seek only to continue governing the library as they have been since it was established in 1881. The Trustees discussed the two versions of the press release, and the intended audience, which includes the press, City Council, and the public at large. The press release will be distributed to the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Springfield Republican, the local radio station, and City Council. It will also be posted on the library's Facebook page. Ms. Moulding will prepare packets for each City Councilor that include the press release, the March 23 letter from the Trustees to the mayor, the opinion letter from City Solicitor Alan Seewald, the complaint filed in Probate and Family court by Forbes, and a copy of the Will & Trust of Judge Forbes. The Trustees discussed the implications for the library if it were to become a city department, especially in regards to capital improvement projects such as the window replacement project, and how best to convey those concerns to the public. Ms. Downing pointed out that while 95% of the Aid Fund is funded by the city, 24% of the Libraries' total expenditures each year come from privately raised funds. Mr. Twarog suggested adding the headline "Forbes Seeks Status Quo" to the press release and listing Ms. Moulding and Mr. Carrier as contacts for more information.

Ms. Reall made a motion to approve the press release edited by Attorney Lucentini as amended with the headline and contact information. Mr. Twarog seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

The Trustees discussed who would attend the City Council meeting this evening. Ms. Moulding and Ms. Downing are attending to present information about the library and its budget. Ms. Moulding will distribute the press release and the packet of background materials to each City Councilor after her presentation.

Ms. Sheirer left the meeting at 2:00 PM.

At 2:02 PM, Ms. Hess moved that the executive session be ended and the regular meeting reconvened. Ms. Wight seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, with Mr. Carrier, Ms. Hess, Mr. Twarog, Ms. Reall and Ms. Wight all voting in favor.

At 2:02 PM, Ms. Hess moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Wight seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.