

TRUSTEES OF FORBES LIBRARY
Special Meeting of March 15, 2022

Present: Ms. Bruce, Ms. Buckhout, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Downing, Ms. Moss (recording), Ms. Prabhaker, and Ms. Wight. **Also Present:** Dylan Gaffney, representative of the Forbes Library Employee Association (FLEA); Jennie Lamour, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Johnson, Head of Children's and Young Adult; Heather Diaz, Reference Librarian. Absent: Mr. Twarog, Ms. Sheirer.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's Emergency Order Modifying the State's Open Meeting Law issued March 12, 2020, this meeting was held using remote participation via Zoom teleconferencing.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Trustees Mask Policy

Ms. Downing said that in light of the board of health's decision last week to make masking optional for the community, she suggests rescinding the trustee's masking policy and following the board of health guidelines. She's spoken to a number of staff about this issue and there is not consensus. Some staff are ready for mask optional or realize how difficult compliance issues will be if Forbes deviates from the majority of the city. Others are anxious about this decision and ask that they be supported if they choose to continue to mask. The library will continue to follow state and local guidelines, including having those diagnosed with covid stay masked until day 10.

The board discussed what metrics, if any, would be used for future considerations. Ms. Moss said that the board of health will continue to watch the data to determine if mandatory masking needs to return. The library will continue to support people who continue to mask, both staff and patrons. Protections such as acrylic barriers will be kept, as well as social distancing, and the trustees want to support staff to ask patrons to mask if they need services in close quarters. The library will continue to provide masks to patrons as needed.

Ms. Bruce contacted the Senior Center to see what messaging they are using which is 'at your discretion'. She prefers 'mask use appreciated and may be requested when working closely with staff'. She also pointed out that there are still mask requirements for public transit, and that acrylic barriers offer more psychological than health benefits. Mr. Carrier disagrees with that messaging that masks are appreciated, but is okay with requesting patrons to mask if needing close help.

Ms. Wight made a motion to rescind the mask policy at Forbes. Ms. Bruce seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with Ms. Bruce, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Prabhaker, and Ms. Wight all voting in favor.

At 12:12 PM, Mr. Carrier moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wight seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with Ms. Bruce, Mr. Carrier, Ms. Prabhaker, and Ms. Wight all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM.