Ms. Bromley called the meeting to order.

Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2017 Board meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Cassone presented the year end forecast through March 31, 2017, noting variances in several revenue and expense categories.

President’s Report

Ms. Knapp passed around the Connecticut Historic Preservation Award that was presented to the Ferguson Library. She also reported that our circulation statistics had declined. She referred to Fewer Americans Are Visiting Local Libraries—and Technology Isn't to Blame from the Atlantic Monthly which discussed the national trend of declining circulation due to inadequate funding for public libraries. Elizabeth Joseph, Coordinator of Adult & Information Services, made a presentation on the 1 Million Cups initiative. 1 Million Cups is a Kauffman Foundation initiative for entrepreneurs. It helps create a supportive community for those who are about to launch a business. While a national program, The Ferguson Library is the first location in Connecticut to offer it. Ms. LaPerla reported on recently received grants: the National Endowment for the Arts awarded $14,000 to host the Big Read, the Library Services and Technology Act gave $1800 for EXCITE!, and the National Endowment for the Humanities is providing facilitators from Every Day Democracy for “Humanities and the Legacy of Race and Culture.” Ms. Knapp also made an announcement about the VR Hackathon being held at the library the first weekend in May.

Building Committee

Ms. Knapp reported that the portico restoration work has received its Certificate of Occupancy and we can now ask the State Historic Preservation Office for the grant
portion of this project ($200,000). The tree in front of the library has been trimmed and a new electrical line has been run from the library to the base of the tree. This work is in preparation for the DSSD light display that will be installed in the tree.

**Development Committee**

Ms. Avellar reported on the April 19th A Novel Affair results. The event grossed $238,000 with 337 people attending. Ms. Avellar also spoke about the library’s Trivia Night at Tigin.

**Pension Committee**

Mr. Cassone reported that the committee met with the pension investment advisors, who made a favorable report. The actuary made a recommendation, and the pension committee accepted it, for the library to contribute $253,768 to the plan in FY 2018.

**Friends of Ferguson**

Mrs. DiMattia discussed the preparation of the Friends budget for next year and their analysis to understand fluctuations in Book Shop sales. She also mentioned new Friends board members and the upcoming volunteer luncheon. The Friends are still seeking a new president.

**Old Business**

Ms. Knapp talked about the proposed budget and the implications of the 5% holdback, for next year and beyond. Mr. Williams commented on the reduction in funding saying it is not a reflection of the library’s performance.

**2017-2018 Budget**

Ms. Knapp presented the capital budget request for next year.

**New Business**

Mr. Callion moved and Mr. Williams seconded the adoption of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED** that Alice S. Knapp, the President of The Ferguson Library, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this organization a certain contract with the Connecticut State Library, State of Connecticut, for an LSTA Quick EXCITE Grant with the program name “Locked City Escape Room”.

Dudley N. Williams, Jr.
Secretary