



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Present: Patrick Halladay, Peter Ireland, Patrick Kinner, Molly Loomis, Cate MacLachlan, Glenn McRae, Amy Mellencamp, Jessica Nordhaus, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Gale Batsimm, Megan Butterfield, Mary Danko

Public Forum: Angie Chapple-Sokol

Opening: Amy welcomed everyone, thanked the Friends of the Fletcher Free Library for the Winter Breakfast, and thanked national student poet Alexandra Contreras-Montesano for her speech and poetry. Cate noted that this tribute could be part of a love your library campaign. Patrick K. offered to assist with that effort. Mary noted that she collects patrons' good stories.

Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2018: Peter Ireland/Patrick Kinner/all in favor

Friends Report: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol reported that the Friends will host a music sale March 9 and 10. Records are new to the sales and they are figuring out how to price them.

Director's Report: Mary Danko reported that Susan Bevins and Robert Coleburn will both be retiring soon.

Patron behavior has escalated over the past few weeks, due to the weather and also Safe Harbor becoming stricter. The library staff met with the Howard Street Team, Church Street Marketplace, and recently with Deputy Police Chief Jon Murad. The library would like to have a social worker. Mary will be meeting with the City Attorney to discuss the trespass policy. Glenn suggested making the case for additional security staff hours to the City. Cate noted that library staff should not be expected to be social workers, that there needs to be a second level. Mary noted that staff is now greeting patrons when they arrive at 10 am, before security is present, to gauge who will need monitoring during the morning. Amy requested that the Commission be kept up to date on this issue, as it can be wearing on staff. Middle school behavior issues have become less of an issue at this time.

New staff hiring has also been requiring administrative time, but will bring new energy. The library has had a high number of applicants for positions.

The Jazz Brunch will take place on Sunday, March 31, from 10:30 am to 1 pm. Jessica suggested that an email be sent to the Commission so that each may amplify the event by sending personally to Front Porch Forum "Why I'm Going". She also suggested partnering with the Jazz Fest to promote the event.

Gale reported that the Annual Appeal has raised more than last year and has more participants this year as well. A follow-up letter will go out in the next couple of weeks to donors who have not responded to the fall appeal. The Early Literacy Outreach Program (ELOP) has secured funding from Northfield Savings

Bank, Vermont Federal Credit Union, the Friends, and will use some of the JetBlue SOAR book fund. Additional grants are in development. Mary will consider inviting Becca to present at the next meeting.

The Art Policy draft was discussed. Glenn noted that the Commission should not stall advancement of policies, so recommended that Mary move along in the process with the City Attorney and bring such policies to the Commission at whatever stage they are at when Commission meetings are held. The removal of artwork is the most complex section. Mary will check with ALA display policy wording. Wording about consultation with the City Attorney could be added. Patrick H. suggested that there could be a subcommittee of the Commission to look at this. Molly inquired about the authenticity section and who determines this. Mary offered to ask Barbara. Patrick H. noted that the “unbalanced or partisan” wording is subjective and may need clearer definition from the Attorney.

The library continues to move forward on its strategic plan. The architecture firm has visited and is planning its vision redesign. The fundraising consultant is also engaged to begin the feasibility study. A survey will be sent to follow up on previous one done during strategic plan. Mary would like to present at NPA meetings. Glenn suggested putting the link in the NPA agenda. The survey would also be available through GovDelivery and Front Porch Forum. The survey helps identify if the library is moving in the right direction and what the public sees as the ways the library should be serving the community. Amy noted that going out to the public is important. Jessica identified polling places as good sites for surveys.

A joint meeting with the Commissions for BCA and Parks and Rec was suggested.

Move to Adjourn: Megan/Cate/all in favor

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, at 8:30 am at the library.