



Fletcher Free Library  
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019

**Present:** Emilia Bloch, Ariel Felcan, Peter Ireland, Molly Loomis, Glenn McRae, Mary Ellen Manock, Amy Mellencamp, Jessica Nordhaus, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Gale Batsimm, Megan Butterfield, Mary Danko, Rebecca Thompson

**Approval of Minutes:** from January 30: Peter Ireland/Megan Butterfield/all in favor

**Approval of Agenda:** Jessica Nordhaus/Megan Butterfield/all in favor

**Welcome to the two new student commissioners for the library: Emilia Bloch and Ariel Felcan.**

**Early Literacy Outreach Program Presentation:** Rebecca Thompson

ELOP was created as a way to improve outcomes for early learners in Burlington home child cares that are rated 0-3 stars in the State's STARS (STep Ahead Recognition System) program. These providers and children are not being reached by other programs. Burlington's kindergarten readiness is 76% compared to the state average of 81.8% and South Burlington's at 91.5%.

ELOP began with an AmeriCorps position in March 2018 and now is entering the second phase of the pilot. Last month the first 10 volunteers were interviewed, had background checks, and were trained. State Youth Librarian Cass Mabbott assisted with the training. The volunteers are currently being matched to 10 home child cares that they will visit weekly during a one-year commitment. Volunteers work with these early learners on five skill groups. Targeted ELOP kit bags, complete with books, manipulatives, activities, and instruction sheets will go with each volunteer to support them in providing a one-hour curriculum-based story time. This program is modeled after CASA and Meals on Wheels. Rubrics were created with information from Vermont Early Learning Standards. Early outcomes from phase one indicated increased literacy skills, respite and interaction, structured time, increased attention, reinforcement, carrying over to home. Becca Thompson is planning on recruiting and training a second group of volunteers in June.

Commissioners asked questions about the program. Molly Loomis suggested possible IMLS grant opportunity for this program. Jessica Nordhaus asked about coordinating with the Mayor's office and Let's Grow Kids, both of which are happening. Glenn McRae suggested coordinating with the Community University Partnership Program to measure impact on both children and providers.

**Friends Report:** Jonathan Chapple-Sokol reported that the Friends' music sale on March 9 and 10 raised about \$3,000. The Friends are working to make their sales bigger and more visible. They are also trying to freshen up their sale cart. Commissioners are invited to write descriptions for books they have read

and recommend from the cart as “commissioner picks”. The Friends’ Finance Committee, which some of the Commissioners participate in, will hold its second meeting on 3/13/19.

The Jazz Brunch will take place on Sunday, March 31, from 10:30 am to 1 pm. The Commissioners were asked to help amplify the event via social media and with the available flyers and cards. Suggestions were made to promote via Wake Robin, BCA and Parks and Rec.

**Director’s Report:** Mary Danko noted that the City Attorney is working on the library ordinance. She also reported that Susan Bevins and Robert Coleburn’s positions are being finalized and will be posted. The Acquisitions Manager position is changed to Technical Services and Digital Content Manager and will be raised to step 18.

Peter Ireland noted that **Amber Collins** should be remembered for her steadfast dedication to the library. Mary noted that she worked at the Fletcher Free Library for 45 years and her legacy includes the “new” wing of the library and the ½ cent book tax, which serves as a solid source of income for the library.

**Move to Adjourn:** Glenn McRae/ Mary Ellen Manock/all in favor

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 8, at 8:30 am at the library.