



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Present: Gale Batsimm, Emilia Bloch, Megan Butterfield, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Ariel Felcan, Hemant Ghising, Molly Loomis, Cate MacLachlan, Jessica Nordhaus, Mona Tolba, Molly Walsh.

Approval of Minutes: From July 17, 2019: Jessica Nordhaus/Chol Dhoor

Approval of Agenda: Megan Butterfield/Jessica Nordhaus

Public Forum: Attendees introduced themselves, including Molly Walsh from Seven Days.

Presentation: On Open Meeting Law was postponed.

Friends' Report: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol noted that their big fall sale begins today and runs September 11-15. The preview held last night (9/10) for donors raised about \$500. He also asked that commissioners and trustees inform him of their Front Porch Forum neighborhood so that the Friends' posts may reach areas not currently covered. Jonathan will email the Commissioners/Trustees.

Director's Report: Mary Danko noted that the Howard Center has been staffing the Community Partners Desk on Tuesday afternoons for the past couple of months. The Library anticipates Age Well and Spectrum joining us as partners in the near future. There was discussion about the bus shelter in front of the Library. The shelter is not on Library property, but the behaviors that occur there often affect Library patrons or are brought into the Library. The Library can call police to uphold the open container law. Green Mountain Transit can also send security. It was suggested that a sign be posted on the shelter to reduce behaviors and also a sign for resources available.

Ordinance: The trespass ordinance has been worked on for a couple of years, first with the Commission before heading to City lawyers and then onto City Council. The ordinance is now with the Ordinance Committee. Policies from libraries around the country were considered in an effort to make FFL's policy more fairly respond to levels of behavior and to keep staff and patrons safe. The ordinance provides guidance, but it was noted that the humanistic and relational approach of Library staff is an asset to the community. Staff engages people first and has been trained in de-escalation. In the existing ordinance, for instance, coming in without a shirt on has the same consequence as exhibiting dangerous behavior. The new ordinance will recognize different responses for different levels of behavior, from falling asleep (which is not allowed because it can be very difficult for staff to determine if it is a medical emergency happening) to violent behavior. Mary noted that the ACLU and members of the community will likely have questions at the ordinance committee meeting and it would be helpful for the Commission

members to attend. A suggestion was made to first take away Library cards for behavior violating policy, but it was noted that many people using the Library do not have a Library card. Criminal behavior moves forward with the police and offenders can have conditions put on them, but that is different than a trespass ordinance, which results in immediate Library consequences, not criminal charges. The ordinance does not currently have a procedural piece for the Commission—Mary said she would speak to Eileen Blackwood. Cate MacLachlan requested that when the ordinance is finalized it would be helpful if someone from the City Attorney's office could come to a Commission meeting, since it will have implications for the Commission.

Statement on Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum seekers: Given the current climate and ICE seizures, this item was added to the agenda. A draft is with the City attorney. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

Youth/Teen Computer Policy: The Commission discussed a policy that clearly defines ages or grades for computer use in the different areas of the Library. Currently elementary and middle school students may use the Youth Dept. computers and 12-18 year olds may use Teen Dept. computers. There are only 2 Teen computers and they are not available when there is no staffing in Teen Dept. Mary noted that we are seeking volunteers to monitor Teen area so computers may be used more. A clear and consistent policy will prevent making decisions in the moment by staff. This policy will also help to inform parents that Library staff cannot operate in loco parentis, and that there are two computers in the Youth Dept. that are unfiltered and both in the Teen area. It is American Library Association (ALA) policy to allow intellectual freedom for children. It was suggested that Chrome Book chargers be available for middle and high school students who are issued these computers by the school. Mary will tweak policy and have revised version for next meeting.

New Business: Gale Batsimm requested that the Commissioners/Trustees mark the hours they volunteered on the Commission during the last two months on the sign-in sheet. The Library has logged volunteer hours for the Friends and Library volunteers in the past, but has not previously counted Commission hours.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, at 8:30 am