



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Present: Megan Butterfield, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Mary Danko, Chol Door, Mona Tolba, Hemant Ghising, Molly Loomis, Cate MacLachlan, Patrick Halladay, Amy Mellencamp, Allie Cashell, Ariel Felcan

New Commissioner Welcome: Allie Cashell has a history of authorship and advocacy for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses through storytelling. Happy to be joining the commission.

Approval of Minutes: From November 27, 2020. Chol Door/Megan Butterfield. Approved.

Public Forum: None present.

Friends Report: Online sales are ready to go but paused until volunteers can be back in library. December sale in City Hall Park was "spectacular"; a lot of money was raised and shoppers were happy. Friends did a huge amount of work, thank you. Ebay is working well and humming along, good, regular income.

Director's Report: Thanks to all the Friends for setting up goody bags for the breakfast. Brian Lowe's recent update about the new variant and the unknowns about its spread pushed the Library to contract services, with goal of limiting time that patrons spent in library. All of our moves are science based but sometimes we second guess ourselves; most of the time patrons understand. We should know a lot more in 4 weeks. Staff has been awesome; has adjusted to changeableness and trusts that decisions are based on science. We look forward to spring and feel that the future is bright.

New Business: Eliminating Fines. Cate MacLachlan asked: What impact does removing fines have on our budget? Mary D. answered: We have done a gradual weaning away from reliance on fines in our budget line, as we don't like relying on bad behavior for our funding and saved some funds in a position regrade. We will still see a deficit, but we will collect monies from replacement costs, and have also added a donation jar at the front desk which should help defray impact. Chol Dhoor agrees that eliminating fines was the right move to encourage people to return to the library. Wonders what the process of eliminating fines was like. Mary Danko noted it was part of the budgetary process. Process had started in conversations with the Mayor over time, showing evidence from other libraries, which ended up being slowed down a bit by the pandemic, but was resumed to success this past fall.

Next meeting: March 17.

Meeting is adjourned.