



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Present: Gale Batsimm, Megan Butterfield, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Hemant Ghising, Patrick Halladay, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Mona Tolba.

Approval of Minutes: From May 2020: Patrick Halladay/Cate MacLachlan

Approval of Agenda: Megan Butterfield/Patrick Halladay

Public Forum: Angie Chapple-Sokol as public attendee. This meeting was offered as a Zoom Webinar due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friends' Report: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol said that the Friends eBay sales have raised \$1500-\$2000 per month. Outside pop-up book sales every other weekend are raising about \$600. The Friends are building a website for the future online sale of books locally. Jonathan responded to Cate's inquiry about book donations, noting that many people are clearing out books and contributing them at this time.

Tyeastia Green, Director of Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging was welcomed by the Library Commission and invited to speak about reviewing library policies through a racial equity lens. Tyeastia began her position the day before the pandemic closed down offices in March. She noted her love of reading and libraries and described the importance of neighborhood libraries in Minneapolis, where she is from. The library is one of the only places where she didn't experience racism or that she was being judged. Tyeastia talked about the importance of elevating writers of color. Cate inquired about what she thought her role would be and the reality of it. Tyeastia noted one of the first things she did was to change the name of the position. The original name included diversity, which she explained is offensive because it implies diverse from a standard or norm of white. She has been working on police restructuring and reform, not something she intended to work on when she was hired. Mona asked about how to make sure the CARES money is being distributed fairly among affected communities, especially those with no advocacy. She also asked about how to change the racism in people's hearts. Tyeastia said she is working on changing practice and process, not hearts. She said the Rapid Response Team (American born team) is working in concert with Trusted Community Voices (Non-American born BIPOC) to reach communities about economic opportunities and building a bridge of trust between the community and the City. She said the \$5K grants to BIPOC small businesses closes on 9/23. Tyeastia said she aims for equity, not equality. Patrick inquired about how the library can do better moving forward and Jonathan asked about how to approach policy change. Tyeastia said she is hiring two staff who will be public policy people examining the policies of every department.

Director's Report: Mary Danko reported on the new PressReader digital magazine and newspaper service that offers 7400 publications in numerous languages and categories. Patrick asked about whether feeds from specific topics were possible. Mary was unsure but noted there will be upcoming classes on this and other digital services at the library. Cate asked whether this service will remain post-COVID or if paper magazines will again be available. Mary said FFL will look at stats when that time comes to determine. The Burlington StoryWalk® was installed at Leddy Park, a family-oriented literacy activity at an ideal time. Sponsorship converted from the cancelled Mini Golf event and a City Innovation grant made this possible.

Recruitment Subcommittee: The Commission has a vacancy for a trustee. Amy created an ad for the position. Gale will add the areas of focus that had previously been specified for the coming year to the ad: health sector, anti-racism/equity, strategic planning. Mona offered to send out to her network. CEDO and the newsletter and Front Porch Forum are also forums we may use. The Rapid Recovery Team and Trusted Community Voices may also be good places to communicate with. Cate suggested the recruitment subcommittee spend time planning before posting the ad so the Commission is prepared and has a process for interviewing candidates. The recruitment subcommittee will meet to plan for the posting, screening and nominating of a new trustee. Gale will send out info to the subcommittee: Amy, Patrick, Molly, Cate.

New Business: Mary is hiring for two replacement positions at the library. Chol inquired about temperature taking at the library. It is protocol for staff and volunteers, but not for the public. Mary noted that everyone has masks and staff is wearing vests or pins that remind people to remain 6' apart.

Next meeting: November 18 at 10 am