



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Present: Emilia Bloch, Chol Dhoor, Ariel Felcan, Hemant Ghising, Patrick Halladay, Molly Loomis, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Mona Tolba, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Gale Batsimm, Megan Butterfield, Mary Danko

Public Forum: Angie Chapple-Sokol

Opening: Amy Mellencamp welcomed everyone, thanked the Friends of the Fletcher Free Library for the Winter Breakfast, and thanked Chol Dhoor for his remarks.

Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2019: Patrick Halladay/Cate MacLachlan/all in favor

Agenda is brief because of Winter Breakfast. Cate MacLachlan suggested that the next meeting dates be posted on GovDelivery and Front Porch Forum. Mary Danko said we could also include the dates in our North Avenue News column. This may attract additional people for the public forum.

Friends Report: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol reported that the Friends will host a February Book Sale February 8-9 and a March Music Sale March 14-15. The December Book Sale raised about \$1200. The Friends will be hosting Library Mini Golf on April 3 and 4 and are seeking sponsors for holes, food, and drink, as well as golf teams. Gale Batsimm will send an information packet out to the Commission. The Annual Fund appeal has raised over \$26,000 to date (last year at this time was \$23,000). The Annual Fund includes a follow-up appeal in February.

Director's Report: Mary Danko reported that the Feasibility Study was positive. She will need to meet with the Mayor to determine the debt ceiling and timeline before deciding next steps. The library welcomed about 130 people for Thanksgiving and 100 for Christmas this year. Mona Tolba said she came and enjoyed both open holidays at the library. Mary Danko also noted that she corrected the statistics in her report since one month was missing. The youth department in particular has had a dramatic increase in numbers, due in large part to additional summer camps and programming. The library will be closed on January 30 for an all-day staff meeting on security and safety. Staff from Howard Center and the Police Department will be assisting in the training. The Community Partners Desk is slowly growing. Some partners are providing resources like hand warmers to patrons; the Commission discussed the possibility of asking for donations of such items. The library held two info sessions on the ordinance. Mary Danko has spoken to individuals about their concerns. She noted that we are hoping for the ACLU to give its stamp of approval. We do not have a date for the next meeting. Chol inquired about committees that the Commission has, and inquired about a capital campaign committee. Currently there is a sub-committee reviewing the nominations process. In the past there have been ordinance and budget committees. The Friends have included Commissioners in some of their committees. Subcommittees are generally created on an as-needed basis.

Mary Danko noted that the sewage issue, which had taken considerable staff time, was the result of a deteriorated exterior pipe. The issue is resolved thanks to the help of the DPW. It was suggested that the library thank the DPW and make the public aware of the aging building issues. We may also wish to highlight other issues, such as the demand for meeting rooms resulting in having to turn away patrons trying to make room bookings. Amy Mellencamp suggested having a message asking for patrons patience that we have to turn away some requests due to lack of availability and that this is a real need. Chol Dhoor noted that the library's strategic location means that rooms will be used. He was concerned about the ceiling leaks and deferring maintenance on that issue. Chol Dhoor suggested a letter from the Library Commission to the Mayor endorsing the need for a vision redesign. Patrick Halladay will draft the letter.

Action: Vote to write letter in support of library vision redesign/Cate MacLachlan/Chol Dhoor/all in favor

Move to Adjourn: Molly Loomis/Megan Butterfield/all in favor

Next Meetings: Wednesday, March 18, at 8:30 am
Wednesday, May 20, at 8:30 am