



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Present: Molly Loomis, Patrick Halladay, Glenn McRae, Peter Ireland, Patrick Kinner, Cate MacLachlan, Mary Ellen Manock, Megan Butterfield, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Mary Danko, Gale Batsimm, Rebecca Goldberg

Approval of Minutes from September 5 (Cate/Patrick, all in favor)

Public Forum: no comments

Friends' Report (Jonathan)

Jonathan discussed Friends' fundraising and finances. He noted that the September book sales brought in \$7-8K. The biggest news for the Friends is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the City. All monies and fundraising will now come through the Friends for the Library. The Friends voted to partially fund the Early Literacy Outreach Program (ELOP). The Friends will form a finance committee after the annual appeal has gone out. This committee will examine budget and such issues as how far they can spend down their balance.

The Friends are also seeking event and communications volunteers. Jonathan noted that the Friends want to raise money beyond book sales and will need volunteers both for strategy and logistics in order to grow their effort. One upcoming event will be the Jazz Brunch in the spring. Glenn requested that Jonathan send out information on which Front Porch Forum locations he needs volunteer contributors for.

Director's Report & BTV Stat

Mary noted that Jane Knodell and Karen Paul displayed their Fletcher Free Library bling (book bag and mug) in their support for the library at the MoU vote. Securing the MoU was a positive step forward after a year and a half.

Commissioners reviewed the Director's Report. Patrick commended the staff for opening on Thanksgiving; he is interested in hearing how it goes. Mary noted the library may be airing football games. The library is reaching out to religious organizations for volunteers for the holidays. Mary Ellen offered to reach out to the UU church. Security has been an issue this past week, but the staff had a productive meeting yesterday with its security service. There was discussion about tracking the especially difficult weeks from year to year to determine patterns, such as the gaps between sports seasons for adolescent boys. Patrick inquired about the public art, Mary said she would check but believes 6 finalists have been chosen. Mary noted that she would present BTV Stats at the next meeting.

Library Department Presentation: Youth Services (Rebecca)

Rebecca noted that the library has many early childhood programs in the morning, currently offering 5 times per week. It is clear that families are seeking programs for early learners. Play,

Laugh and Learn has been a bit hit. Summer programming this year was very successful, adding August programming for the first time. The library is serving 1 in 5 kids in Burlington in summer programming. The library also provided summer meals, drawing 80 kids per day. One third of the program is outreach. Summer library programs focus on keeping minds learning in whatever way they learn. There are different activities all summer. The 2018 theme was Libraries Rock, meaning that the Fletcher brought in weekly musical programs and also some geology! Kids were asked to take part in 5 activities and then their slip could be turned in as a raffle entry. A chat table also welcomed students to talk about what they were reading and learning with volunteers. 40 volunteers assisted over the summer. The library is measuring not just numbers, but the amount of deep engagement and learning occurring. Rebecca is working with the schools looking at equity gaps. The Commission discussed including department highlights in each Front Porch Forum.

Student Commissioners

Mary met with Phet of CEDO to discuss having students on Commissions. The Library has not had a student Commissioner in about eight years. This will be a long process, but the library will have two students as liaisons.

Task Forces

Commissioners signed up for a variety of subcommittees that will meet during the year, including Annual Appeal, Board Development/Recruitment, Finance, Policies, Library Advisory Group, and Metrics/Assessments.

Update on Capital Campaign

The library had put out an RFP for a visionary redesign. They will use the information gathered during the strategic plan. Fundraising consultant Christine Graham will conduct a feasibility study.

New Business

Mary discussed creating a library café task force. Mary would like a representative from the Commission and from the Friends. Mary will be meeting with Phelan at ECHO to discuss their challenges. Glenn noted that Housing Works in NYC has an interesting model. The Super Hero shop and writing rooms in San Francisco and other locations in the country may also serve as a model.

Next Meeting Date

January 30 for the second annual winter breakfast hosted by the Friends of FFL. This will be a social event for Friends, Commissioners, and City Council to mingle. The Commission decided to have the meeting following the breakfast. Time was proposed for 7:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 8:45 a.m. Friends will confirm whether that set up time will work for them.