



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Present: Gale Batsimm, Sally Blanchard, Allie Cashel (call in), Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Nora Kane, Patrick Halladay, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Mona Tolba (call in), Amanda Robertson (guest speaker).

Approval of Minutes: From November. Sally moved, Patrick seconded. Approved.

Approve Agenda: Nora moved, Chol seconded. Approved.

Public Forum: No public in attendance.

Friends Report: The Friends met on Tuesday evening. They are in need of volunteers, especially for some specific roles, such as assisting with eBay sales and online sales/website. The Annual Appeal is behind last year at this time, but we have added donors, particularly from the New North End.

Director's Report: Meeting rooms are getting more use and programs are expanding. The library has experienced behavior challenges and we have been in touch with the Mayor's office to request fulltime security. Currently there is no security 10-noon on weekdays. FFL will be closing for a day on February 9 for staff safety and security training day. Mona inquired as to the cause, Mary noted if we think it is mental health related we call Howard Street, if needed we call police. We trespass people for using drugs in the library. Mary noted staffing has been down with illnesses but that we have a good sub list now. We have an SAT Prep class running for the next few months for teens. The popular Stuffie Sleepover will be held in February. The last vaccine clinics will be held on January 30 at the NNE Branch and January 31 at the Main Branch.

Amanda Robertson, Teen/Tween Librarian: Amanda joined FFL in September. She comes via PA and Delaware. She has been creating exciting teen and tween programs, such as the new free SAT Prep classes with Walker Tutoring, Dungeons & Dragons, a make & take soup program, pizza & paperbacks book club, crafternoons. Programs are typically ages 11-18. Amanda would like to start a Manga club. In February she will host a Pokemon scavenger hunt and party to celebrate the 27th anniversary of Pokemon. A core group of teens of unhoused teens come in daily. Amanda needs teen space monitors. Amanda is trying to build relationships with Hunt Middle School and BHS through outreach. She would like to create a comfort cabinet with items for teens.

Subcommittees: Strategic Planning met with Patrick, Chol, Mona, Laura, and Amy and will meet again on the 27th. Policy Committee met with Ailsa, Allie and Sally to review bulletin board policy. Capital Campaign update—FFL will receive \$500,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending, \$40,000 in a Vermont Historic Preservation Grant (\$20 of that as matching funds from city facilities). We are waiting to hear about an NEH grant. These funds are all directed toward restoration of the exterior envelope of the Carnegie Building. VT Dept of Libraries also has funds to disperse. Mary noted that 7% of the state population resides in Burlington and that our library mentors librarians and helps build the librarian workforce through our volunteer and sub positions.

Other Business: None

Meeting adjourned: Sally moved, Cate seconded. Approved.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 15 at 7:45 am