



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Present: Gale Batsimm, Megan Butterfield, Allie Cashel (call in), Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor (call in), Patrick Halladay, Cate MacLachlan, Ailsa Oneil-Dunne, Mona Tolba (call in), Laura Zhou-Hackett

Approval of Minutes: From May 19, 2021. Moved Megan/Cate seconded. Approved.

Cate led meeting in planned absence of Chair Amy Mellencamp. We introduced new members and discussed our most fun activity we did this summer. We have three commissioners calling in.

Public Forum: No public in attendance

Approval of Changed Agenda: Megan moved/Cate seconded

Martha Keenan: Five years ago Martha addressed the library commission about a bond. The City has a capital plan every five years. Today, Martha discussed city needs prior to a bond request this fall, and presented printed PowerPoint slides. Accomplishments over the last five years include completing 14 miles of sidewalk. Previous to current bond, the City completed one mile per year, now doing three, meanwhile street paving has doubled and they have completed 90% of the bike path. The new bond will support the last part of the bike path. Like streets, buildings don't stop having needs. The kitchen, lights and boiler were replaced at the Library but there is still a lot to be done. Working toward Net Zero 2030 goals. City has done security upgrades as well. Most buildings had video system, but no consistent system, so the City purchased one system for all buildings, connecting to dispatch center. New City committees include an Asset Management Committee, a Capital Committee, and a Fleet Committee. Martha originally made all decisions, now she is happy to have committees to help make more fair and unbiased determinations. The next bond will have some funding for fleet. What the City has learned is that capital needs are always evolving. Bridges hadn't originally been included and the City has a lot of bridges. The City has decades of deferred maintenance to catch up on. The FY22 budget survey showed strong support for infrastructure support and maintenance. Mary noted that the City had to pivot with COVID to look at air handling. Goal is to go to voters in November for another bond. Martha is presenting to commissions and NPAs that we have great needs and this is next step to keep city vibrant. There are some other funds the City is trying to access. ARPA funds and American Rescue Plan may help bridges and streets and climate change funding to improve HVAC systems and building toward net zero goal, such as building infrastructure for electric vehicles. The City needs high speed chargers, each costs about \$80k. They generate revenue and are a tourist draw as well as helping residents. Also, there is a need to increase electrical input to buildings to add chargers outside of them. The City is trying to understand how much do we have to invest each year to sustain our current capital infrastructure? It looks like between 4-7 million per year, and only 2 million per year is allocated now. Mary noted the Library's 46,000 sq. ft. building needs more to maintain it. Some of our maintenance is now shared across the City. 2016 study showed we needed additional 7 people to maintain our City buildings and got 2. Custodians are now housed at the Library for the City. We wanted to create collaboration and

reduce silos in the City. The City is making huge strides, but it feels like we have so much to do. We have very little room to grow geographically. Every city has its unique challenges. We have done much and have a ways to go. No budget for IT before their capital plan. Annual need is \$4 Million dollars and that doesn't include Library redesign, fire department, etc. We are trying to ask for what is going to continue with our priorities. The City will try to leverage dollars and use them well. The City's Champlain Connector is the oldest project in nation. Mary has worked hard to revision library and Martha also worked with architect, is excited about the project and believes that it is important to the community. Patrick asked if BHS is not finalized, how do you consider other projects that may be impacted? Martha said one strategy is to sell some City buildings and use that to build other buildings. She noted that the debt policy has one debt allowance for schools and one debt allowance for city, there may need to be a balancing of those numbers. Mary said she appreciates debt ceiling conversation because it was only approved three years ago. Mary's dream is for more federal money to come for city infrastructure. Infrastructure bill that they are hoping will be passed this summer may make other dollars available for other projects. That is why the fall bond is not tied to particular projects, leveraging money wherever they can. All of this will impact the public tax bills, so the City needs to help people feel comfortable about that. People feel strongly that it is expensive to live in Burlington and we want to make it worthwhile. Martha included her schedule for all the people she'll be talking to. Emily asked about the inclusion of climate consultants on committees. Mary talked about how department heads are pushed to become knowledgeable about what the climate advances are in their industry and to communicate them to Mayor. Building a sharing economy with library borrowing helps. Mona asked that BIPOC community groups be included in meeting schedule and will send Mary a cultural competency council contact to share with Martha.

Friends Report: Friends have had three book sales raising \$3500 over the summer. Next is July 31 weekend. Looking for volunteers to help for book sales. Ailsa will look for advisor contact for who sends out community service hour postings from BHS.

Director's Report: Mary discussed report and noted that one correction is that hours on Tuesday and Wednesday are from 10 am to 8 pm, back to pre-pandemic hours. Youth department really turned on a dime and boosted summer youth outreach with grant funding from BSD and VT Afterschool, and have eight interns providing outreach at parks and meal sites throughout the city.

KOHA/Aspen: Tabled to next meeting. New ILS should be pretty intuitive. Cate said much better user experience.

New Meeting Schedule: Those in attendance agreed on 8 am on the second Wednesday of the month. September 8 at 8 am. Can have call in option.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned. Megan moved/ Cate seconded. Approved.