



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Present: Sally Blanchard, Nora Kane, Emily Copeland (call in), Mary Danko, Patrick Halladay, Cate MacLachlan, Jessica Nordhaus, Ailsa Oneil-Dunne (call in), Emer Feeney (guest speaker).

Approval of Minutes: From May 25. Cate moved, Sally seconded. Approved.

Approve Agenda: Cate moved, Sally seconded. Approved.

Public Forum: No public in attendance.

Friends Report: (Mary Danko proxy delivery for Jonathan Chapple-Sokol) The Friends have had two very successful book sales. There has been limited volunteer support for the book sales and they are needing more people to help with set-up and break-down. If you could be on call, let us know. There will be a book sale tent on August 15 at BTV Saturday Market. Also, artist Ashley Roark will be there doing a public printmaking project for community members to create prints for Open Chair art project, where eventually visitors will be able to listen to library stories in an in-library installation, as well as viewing the community art. Funded by and in partnership with BCA. The Friends have wrapped up fiscal year finances, it was another very successful year. The Friends are now working on inviting local book dealers to look at books here. There will be more thinking and focus on trying to keep sales local where possible to reflect values of the library. There was discussion of \$20,000 that is still committed to the City Budget via the Library and Friends MOU; There is hope that there will be plans to decrease that commitment.

Director's Report: Short-staffing issues driving time spent on hiring and onboarding is affecting regular work. Hiring, onboarding and training are taking up large amounts of time. The library is slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels in visits, to programs, in checkouts. This is the first full summer of youth services. Excellent candidates in hiring processes for all of our recent openings, it is difficult to turn people down who are so good. We are now very good at hiring and have added several elements to get to know candidates better during interviews, such as an inbox exercise. Training has become more important too.

Our NNE branch continues to be very popular. We are currently hiring for the 20-hour position. Nora notes that we always hear positive feedback at the NNE branch. Vaccination clinics have also been really popular at Main Branch, vaccinating almost 100 people over two different walk-in clinic days, all ages. People appreciated the ease, no tech barriers, being at library. Marketing went out via press releases, in FPF and Facebook, IG, Library newsletter.

Emer Pond Feeney, Technology Report: During the pandemic we added the Digital Provide Project, aimed at helping folks access wifi and laptops that they could take home with them. We then added an additional fleet of wifi hotspots that have been very successful, indicating that many

folks may have access to devices but not the internet. Additionally, we boosted the wifi in the Library to extend to the parking lot and tables out front, and added 6 new outlets outside the building for patrons to charge electronic devices. This year, we are adding 50 chromebooks for checkout, and will be able to add checkout at our New North End branch. In October, we will be partnering with Tech4Tomorrow to teach a series of basic computing skills and knowledge at lunchtime hours with seniors in mind, but open to all ages, and an evening series of Google Workplace classes. We have also purchased a charging station for inside the Library for patrons to leave their device in a secured cubby while it is charging.

Capital Campaign Committee: (update from Jessica Nordhaus) We are moving along and continue to build on our solid supporter base. We are meeting with Christine Graham next week to reconfigure timeline. We are working on a new plan to build a library awareness campaign with marketing and social media campaigns, storytelling. This is to build community awareness and investment in the Library. Mary notes we are still researching energy efficiency measures and small projects we can do to further the Library to net zero goal, which might have available other funding. Testing for geothermal, for example. Time-sensitive funding sources might be available for some phased elements of the overall renovation goals. For instance, federal library preservation funds could support preservation work in the Carnegie building, and state funds set aside for municipal energy efficiency work could support energy efficiency work, possibly connecting to other larger city projects. Mary adds that there is good evidence of strong community support through our annual fundraising, and that timing is probably the biggest element to get right.

Other Business: none

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 21 at 7:45 am