



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Present: Gale Batsimm, Kate Belluche, Emilia Bloch, Megan Butterfield, Allie Cashel, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Ariel Felcan, Patrick Halladay, Molly Loomis, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Jessica Nordhaus, Barbara Shatara, Mona Tolba.

Approval of Minutes: From March 17, 2021. Chol moved/Molly seconded. Approved.

Public Forum: John Moore

Summer Challenge and Take Home Kits Presentations:

Kate Belluche, Youth Services staff, described both the library's new STEAM kits and the watershed exploration kits being created in partnership with UVM SeaGrant thanks to a Lake Champlain Basin Project grant. The library will have 30 different STEAM kits paired with books from library, such as one that features a microscope. Kate said it has been fun to hear how patrons are using the kits which serve ages 3-12. Demand has been high and most have been on hold the entire time. Molly noted that her family has used and enjoyed them. The Watershed Explorer Kits offer a challenge to do experiments that teach how to protect the Lake Champlain watershed. Through the LCBP grant, FFL will provide kits for other libraries in the watershed as well. There will be 50 kits—25 of each—one to do at home, one for field work at local stream site. These are more like a school lesson, parents will be involved, not just playing. Jessica offered to provide a contact at Maritime Museum. Patrick suggested we gather data on long-term impact and may partner with UVM on gathering that information. Mona talked about educating about mercury in the water and wondered about incorporating that in these or a future kit.

Rebecca Goldberg, Youth Services Librarian, showed a PowerPoint and discussed the Tails & Tales summer challenge program, which includes kids, teens and adult programming on the library lawn, at sites all over Burlington, and the reading and activity challenges online. Preregistration is open now. Beanstack (by Zoobean) is a reading program that motivates communities to read by tracking their reading and achieving milestones. The VT Dept of Libraries purchased rights to use it, and then customized it for VT libraries. Megan noted that the library is using Beanstack for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program as well, and that the program promotes challenges year-round. The youth department will welcome back Isabelle as a summer outreach intern this summer for her third year. The library will reach up to 15 sites this year. This summer will also be at City Hall Park, one of the BPRW summer meal sites. FFL will continue to offer book giveaways. Rebecca praised her awesome youth team. Mona noted that many programs happen during weekdays, including event on May 19. Youth will look at providing dates for working families and kids in day camps as well. Programs such as Frog & Toad will happen on the weekend on June 26. Mary noted that the youth department are leaders in the state.

Barbara Shatara, Programs & Partnerships Librarian, discussed the City's Juneteenth celebration. FFL will have an afternoon of events, focusing on an equitable food system, with a panel that includes representatives from the VT Agency of Agriculture, Strafford Organic Creamery, VTReleaf Collective and

Skinny Pancake ShiftMeals. Library events will run from 1-4pm with the panel discussion at 2pm. There will be food trucks and other Black-owned food-related businesses on the lawn that day. City is investing money in celebrating an important part of our nation's history. The summer challenge program for adults includes Citizen Science kits that will roll out this summer from a grant received from National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Citizen Science is an opportunity for average people to provide data for scientists. FFL will have 25 kits for five different projects to get out into community. 10 will be going to senior centers and the remaining 15 will be at library to borrow. One kit example is eBird, one of the longest running Citizen Science projects, guiding people in observing birds and gathering data. One can see the trajectory of how some bird species are doing because they have been tracked for so long. Lady beetles, sunflowers, butterflies, bats comprise the other kits, which are long-term loans, one to three months for each kit. These Citizen Science Projects with libraries are growing. Barbara presented at a national conference on this.

Friends Report: Friends are back in basement volunteering. They will start local online sales soon, their book stall will open up again, and live sales will start up with book sales on Memorial Day weekend and June 12-13. They are hoping to have sales every couple of weeks during the summer.

Director's Report: Mary highlighted a few items from her report. The budget presentation from the library will be on Thursday. It has been a challenging time for the City. Mary showed a slide from her presentation on agility during COVID. Mary was attending EOC meetings three times each week in the beginning of the pandemic. Mary was bringing that constantly changing info back to departments and was asking them to innovate and change and adapt, piloting projects and trying new things.

Library Update Thank you to Ariel, Emilia and Molly who have completed their terms on the commission. Molly said she would like feedback from youth commissioners on their experience. A new tool kit from REIB department will help train department heads who will then become trainers for the next level of folks. Department heads trained a few weeks ago. This will lead to our review of policy through an equity lens.

New Business: Mona asked about translations for the kits and other programs. Barbara is working on that for the Community Science kits. Mary will send out the language access plan from City to Commission. Chol said we should translate to as many languages as possible. 60 languages are spoken in Burlington. Mary explained challenges and financial constraints of translating into many languages. Mona doesn't see anyone from library as part of multilingual committee she is on; she said it would be helpful to have someone from library be a part of. Mary said this would be good role for the new outreach staff person. Focus on accessibility is important. Amy welcomed John Moore to the meeting; John leads the eBay sales for the Friends.

Next meeting: July 21 time to be determined

Meeting is adjourned. Megan moved/Patrick seconded. Approved.