



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Minutes of Meeting  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

**Present:** Gale Batsimm, Sally Blanchard, Megan Butterfield (call in), Allie Cashel (call in), Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland (call in), Mary Danko, Patrick Halladay (call in), Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Jessica Nordhaus (call in), Ailsa Oneil-Dunne (call in), Mona Tolba (call in), Laura Zhou-Hackett (call in), Melissa Hutson (guest speaker).

**Approval of Minutes:** From March 16. Cate moved, Patrick seconded. Approved.

**Approve Agenda:** Cate moved, Sally seconded. Approved.

**Public Forum:** No public in attendance. Jonathan, as a member of the public, made a comment about Memorial Auditorium. He thinks there is a place for the commission to think about the role of the commission for the library improvements. We might want to catch up with councilors to come in for chats since this isn't on their radar. We want them to be thinking about the library as they are thinking about the auditorium. **Mary is on PACCs and can see if we can be on agenda.**

**Friends Report:** Jonathan reported that the Friends held a very successful indoor book sale, raised \$1600. Continue to look for new ways to raise money from the bounty of books in the basement. Currently there are twice as many books in the basement as in the past. Need to find more ways to raise books. Investigating consignment sales and book dealers. Next book sale is June 11 & 12. Mary suggested sample stall cart for outside during nice weather.

**Director's Report:** Haven't had a chance to work on strategic plan. What hasn't shown on report is the impact of staffing shortages we have had some cases of COVID plus vacations. Had some staff turnover and done some hiring. Departments were asked to look hard at budgets and we waited to hire for youth position. Teen librarian also will be hired. We've gotten another grant from BSD and BPRW/VT Afterschool Program. Hired 6 summer outreach staff. We'll be there with pop-up libraries to hand out books and provide activities. Challenges have made us had to plug in in different ways. We went two years with minimal effect of COVID on staff. High School reached out to come in each week during summer with summer program. Emily thanked Mary and the library for the CTR exhibit and event. Mary introduced Nora Kane as the new staff commissioner. Invited Nora to come today.

**Melissa Hutson, Library of Things:** Cate said there was a presentation some years ago and a conversation about how popular metal detector was. LoT expanded from games and cake pans; we get request for new gardening tools every year. Someone just donated more snowshoes. Stuff that you might use once or twice but don't want to own. From end of June LoT items have circulated 1220 times. Grant from Big Heavy World just added 10 microphones to library. Fascinating collection. Cate asked if items come back in good collection. Pieces go missing. We can usually get replacement pieces. Megan asked about challenges of storing and displaying items and not having people walking out with items. We do keep empty boxes out for some items. There is a note in catalog about where things are stored. Some items have to be signed out for. Some things we don't replace if they get taken. We're fine free except for some items (laptops, telescope...). Some maintenance issues—sharpening gardening tools.

One week loan no renewal. Website list of items is pretty accurate. Emily can't wait to promote LoT and wondered about any restrictions on telling people—staff encouraged everyone to tell others. Patrick noted that it was one of coolest things that library has. Library has offered tools and tennis racquets for 15 years. Library is seeing more pressure on collections budget: eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming, databases are more expensive, more pressures to expand digital collections. Most people don't realize libraries pay more—might cost library \$90 for a limited checkout what costs individual \$6.95. Different formats and agreements. More to come on that. Mary noted our state needs to push this using legal avenues to make this more fair. Jessica confirmed this would be an issue for the attorney general.

**Subcommittees: Capital Campaign, Policy Planning, Strategic Planning.** No update on strategic planning. Two drafts to vote on today: meeting room policy and interlibrary loan policy. Meeting room policy added minor usage with adult reservation option provided by lawyer. **Group agreed to clarify ages as 13 through 17.** Cate asked if Mary was comfortable making decisions with this policy. Mary thinks it is clearer and easier to read and added some things. Patrick asked about the policy in relations to hate speech groups; Mary would involve city attorney, otherwise language in #9 about disruptive or incompatible behavior should address issues. What happened in past is we could have counter programming and displays, still allowing for freedom of free speech.

**Motion to approve meeting policy Jessica/Cate. Approved with age language edit**

**Interlibrary loan policy Cate moved/Patrick. Approved. Mary will make sure it has gone through Hemenway app.**

**Capital Campaign Committee:** Amy reported two aspects of the project--the group meeting with schematic design committee, very productive meetings and staff has been included in process. A lot of testing has happened, next phase is public input that will be discussed at meeting next week. Other group is talking about financial side of project, fundraising, going over potential names of people to provide more outreach to community. Sensitive to high school, want to be doing groundwork to kick into gear after and be strategic in our thinking. Brainstorming at this time for the library.

**Mary's assessment:** Due to Mayor later this week. **Amy will send to Mayor.**

**Other Business: Mona asked for review of safety policy.**

**Voting of Trustees:** the trustees voted to reinstate Mona Tolba and Chol Dhoor for another three year term.

**Meeting adjourned:** Cate moved, Mona seconded. Approved.

**Next Meeting:** July 20 at 7:45 am