



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Present: Gale Batsimm, Sally Blanchard, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Patrick Halladay, Nora Kane, Jessica Nordhaus, Mona Tolba, Laura Zhou-Hackett

Approval of Minutes: From May 15: Chol moved, Sally seconded. Approved.

Approve Agenda: Nora moved, Emily seconded. Approved.

Public Forum: No public in attendance.

Director's Report: New tech staff have been hired and it has been helpful to train them together. Emily asked Mary to share the Vermont Libraries report and she will do that at the next meeting. Cate inquired whether digital services are continuing to experience an increase as they did during the pandemic. Mary said she may invite Melissa back to discuss digital services at another meeting.

Grants from NEH, Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and VT Historic Preservation will fund exterior restoration work on the Carnegie building. Jessica noted that there was some pressure to exempt 2022 CDS awardees from Build America, Buy America (BABA) restrictions (needing to have building supplies made in USA—has caused delays and increased costs). May be helpful to reach out to congressional offices to ask for exemption, requires advocacy.

Mary noted that the library experiences 2 to 3 major events each week and has issued quite a few 180-day trespasses. Emer and Mary have been attending Community Stats meetings focused on addiction issues. In the summer Burlington usually receives a new influx of unhoused individuals. Jessica noted that Howard Center is closing half of its crisis treatment because of understaffing. Also, on June 1 people will lose Medicare benefits they had during COVID if they do not successfully reapply. Patrick inquired about staff safety and liability. She said that EAP is a good staff resource. Emily said she has witnessed the modelling of loving, firm boundaries from staff and that other patrons' experience is part of what library staff takes care to address. Nora said that in reviewing strategic planning survey results, there is a call for programming/community discussions around this issue.

Friends Report: The Friends had their most successful outdoor sale, raising over \$3,000. The next book sale is June 10 & 11. Their relationship with City Market provides increased numbers of volunteers. The Friends affirmed their commitment to move ahead with the capital campaign. The MoU with the city needs to be updated. Friends still need additional members for the finance committee, about 2 hours/month. The Friends have provided staff support recently with a lovely breakfast and will provide chair massages the last weekend of the month for staff.

Subcommittee updates: Strategic Planning group met and is reviewing the survey results. They are still trying to reach additional groups. The Planning Committee has not met.

Other Business: Thank you to Laura and Ailsa for serving as student commissioners for the past two years.

Meeting adjourned: Jessica moved, Sally seconded. Approved.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 19 at 7:45 am