



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2021

Present: Gale Batsimm, Megan Butterfield, Allie Cashel (call in), Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland, Chol Dhoor, Emer Feeney, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Jessica Nordhaus (call in), Mona Tolba (call in), Ailsa Oneil-Dunne, Laura Zhou-Hackett.

Approval of Minutes: From July 21, 2021. Moved Cate/Chol seconded. Approved.

Mary is unable to attend. Emer is attending in her stead. We have three members of the Library Commission calling in.

Approve Agenda: Megan moved/Emily seconded. Approved.

Public Forum: No public in attendance.

Meeting Schedule: Commissioners and Trustees discussed best dates and times to meet. The group agreed on 7:45 am on the third Wednesdays. Next meetings will be on November 17, January 19, March 16, and May 18, 2021.

Friends Report: Friends are a 501(c)3 that raises funds for the library. Jonathan said they raise funds through traditional means such as book sales, stall, and merchandise, and have worked to innovate a bit with eBay sales and online local website sales. They have raised about \$1500 at each book sale this summer and sold about \$100 so far in local sales. EBay sales have raised \$2000 since July; August was a record month. A promotion with Hannaford grocery store this month (Shelburne Road Hannafords only) contributes \$1 for each bouquet sold to the Friends. Friends can always use volunteers whether it is for book sale help, finance committee volunteers, or board members. The long-term treasurer recently stepped down, so a new treasurer is needed.

Director's Report: Mary sent out her report. Emer answered questions and discussed the update of the elevator. The City will rebuild elevator mechanism, it will hopefully not impact too much, we will have to address accessibility in creative ways. Chol asked if the elevator is working well in meantime. Emer noted it is so old that they no longer make materials to repair elevator, so have to do special work to fashion fixes. She said it is not dangerous.

Amy thanked library for extensive summer programming. Megan noted we had an amazing team of 8 interns who went to lots of different parks, gave away books and did STEAM activities directly with the kids. There was such a positive response from the community. It was a lot of work and youth staff had to shift priorities to make it happen. Interns were college age and really ran with materials and information and did great work.

KOHA/Aspen: New integrated library system is in place. New software is open source software that offers more flexibility. This is FFL's second foray into consortia. The Green Mountain consortium lets us save on eBooks and eAudio. Now we are part of VOKAL which as a group agrees to pay for open software. We are saving thousands each year on this system. Emer ask Mary for exact numbers. We did

have an upfront migration cost. This will mean a lot to the library and City over time. To echo this change, we will join the Homecard system this fall/winter. There may be some limitations such as digital resources because patrons already have access to those at their own library and those resources are costly. The consortium can make things easier for people to move between towns. There may be a small loss of revenue from out-of-town library cards, but we worked with this when we expanded to free FFL cards for all working OR living in Burlington some years ago. Cate said the idea of a consortium sounds like a different conversation than it did some years ago.

Emer showed on screen what KOHA search looks like, illustrating in the catalog what other libraries have. FFL staff can put item on hold at another library for them. There is no courier system at this time. The old system would make it hard to update notifications for patrons and it could take a half day to update one notification. In this software it is all built in. The library relinquished some power, VOKAL folks have some permissions that exceed staff powers. We bring a lot of burden to system because we are so large but also a lot of resources. They have been around for a decade. Bywater is the organization that manages software. They made VT their test region for the software catalog. Patrons can browse catalogs easily. It also offers other features we are not yet using, such as every time you look up cookbook, it can show the FFL cookbook club. We feel like we've come into this century with new catalog. Staff recommends touring around the catalog and letting staff know if you find any kinks. Chol said he likes that it will give people more power. He asked if patrons may return books to different towns. Emer said that is not part of our capacity to start—we don't want to overburden the courier system. An example was a patron taking out stacks of children's books and returning them to another library—that could overload a small library and the courier system. We have to step carefully into Homecard. Chol suggested it would be good to have Q&A and an information campaign so patrons understand benefits and limitations. Mona asked whether large medical libraries and other large libraries are part of this Homecard. They are not, but there are more than 20 small local libraries. Emily noted that knowing how much money the library is saving the city is helpful, it is good to know those little nuggets about streamlining, those numbers are powerful, particularly as we begin a Capital Campaign. Gale updated Commission on the next phase of the campaign. Currently a group will be evaluating the RFPs for schematic design by architectural firms.

New Meeting Schedule: 7:45 am on November 17.

New Business: Amy asked if there are any other issues we should discuss at this time. Patrick Halladay will help review schematic design RFPs. On behalf of the Commission she thanked Hemant, who has stepped down from the Commission, and congratulated him on his new job. The new commissioner position posting for the vacancy closes today, and we should have new commissioner for next meeting.

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