



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Minutes of Meeting  
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

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

**Approval of Minutes:** From July 20. Cate moved, Sally seconded.

**Approve Agenda:** Emily moved, Nora seconded. Approved.

**Public Forum:** No public in attendance.

**Friends Report:** Raised \$2700 in 2-day outdoor September sale, best to date. Have a 5-day indoor book sale end of October. The Friends have an agreement with City Market for volunteers thanks to the work of Ashley Bolger, the volunteer coordinator, who paved the way for the library volunteers. The Friends' annual meeting is next Tuesday evening at 5 pm. All are invited. Last year was a good year and brought on new Friends, increasing age diversity. Mary noted Friends have really pivoted during COVID, can do PayPal, Venmo, etc. and gave kudos to Jonathan for leading the way. Jonathan said a new Friend is handling Instagram and helping to promote sale of books. Chol asked about signups at the book sales and Jonathan said they do offer that at the sales and are in process of revising website to make it easier for interested volunteers.

**Director's Report:** Library is becoming more vibrant, last Thursday night after hours there was a pride panel and an author talk. Green Mountain Book Festival is happening this weekend along with a Banned Book Reading. We have a booklet of authors and schedule for the event. Non-Fiction Comics Festival October 14-16 is next event. Brought on three new staff, including one for NNE Branch. Had some COVID cases on staff and have had to flex staff. Cate asked what event brings to library. Part of it is hosting local authors, we will get a percentage of sales. Has a good board. First year you learn so much. Barbara is doing training for 27 volunteers today. Emily echoed Cate's concerns—she feels protective of library because it is taking staff time and energy out vs. energy in. Free location and staff time are a huge boon to bookstore. Nora noted that it is also disrupting other services, like tech center for weekend.

Amy asked about NNE, Grand Reopening is October 4 from 3-5 pm. Nora said every time she was there people were very happy and there was always someone just discovering the branch and she was often signing people up for new cards.

City Council gave approval for GO Bond to apply for NEH grant application for restoration of exterior of Carnegie building, first phase of renovation. Mary said much more formal process now going through capital fund committee. Working with Nicole Losch as city grants coordinator. Not so great news is NEH is a very competitive grant.

Patrick asked about the effects of when ARPA funding runs out and whether that will result in layoffs, etc. Mary said it will depend on how City does.

Ailsa loved reading SCP report. Wonder if we could run something with school getting students out in community, an internship, going to elementary schools in winter. She remembers Scholastic Book Fair and that unlike the library it was not an equitable opportunity. Mary will introduce Laura and Ailsa to Amanda, the new Teen Librarian.

**Melissa Hutson, Technical Services & Digital Content Manager, Diversity Audit**

Melissa had a meeting with Ingram for selectors tools and learned about the Diversity Audits they were conducting, that VT Libraries was encouraging with 2<sup>nd</sup> round ARPA funding. Ingram runs ISBN numbers through their system and compares us to other libraries that have purchased the audit. Audit is of paper books in the collection with focus on BIPOC, LGBTQ+. Large print books are not included. We bought the whole package, benchmarking our collection against other libraries. We ranked in top 10 of diversity. Size of library and region didn't really matter, staff at library that cared about building diverse collection really matters. 18% diverse collection items compared to 13% as public library average. Based on content rather than author which is not always discernible. When we get books from other countries it captures ISBN worldwide. In response to a question from Mona, Mary and Melissa will look for answers on whether books in other languages are included. Children's collection is 21% compared to public library average 12%. Teen collection 35% compared to average 23%. We do serve Burlington but also all Vermont libraries through ILL. Important part of Vermont fabric of libraries. Mary said we might also repeat the audit in a few years. Melissa said Kirkus reviews are starting to give info like Asian Interest that will help identify book. Emily noted that hashtags are an informal way to note diversity such as #ownvoices. Patrick noted that quality of materials is also important. Melissa noted that she always reads a couple of reviews before purchasing. Melissa looked at shopping list to see areas we might purchase more in, such as Muslim interest, but some categories we already own the books that they recommend. Ways to follow breadcrumbs to these vendor lists. Good use of ARPA monies. Dream would be to have an EDI person who could put racial equity lens on everything. REIB office is great, but not like having imbedded staff person. Urban, Large and mid-size were categories. We are small. Mary's dream is we have regional collection development. We need a data person to look at what's duplicated, what isn't. Do all libraries in Chittenden County need to carry same older books? Cate noted many nonprofits struggle with data collection as well. Economic savings of consolidation and sharing have to be huge. Mary said we are pursuing Home Card. Melissa said that the Pride Parade was great, she drove van in parade.

**Other Business:** Amy said we would like to get subcommittees active this year.

**Meeting adjourned** Cate moved, Sally seconded.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 16 at 7:45 am