

# **LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Thursday, October 18, 2012

## **In attendance:**

Robert Coleburn, Robert Resnik, Anne Nixon, Peg Boyle Single, Emer Feeney, Dan Balon, Rebecca Goldberg, Fatuma Hassan, Kira Stewart, Rachel Van Vliet.

*There is a possibility that this will not count as an official board meeting because there may not be a quorum.*

## **1. President's Report**

- Peter Ireland is interested in the vacant position on the board.
- The search for the Director is going well. The search- a competitive group including local, regional, and national candidates.
  - Phase 1- The search committee interviewed 10 or 12 people. 2 people are being forwarded to the mayor.
  - Phase 2- Mayor interviews (4 people could be in this group).
  - Phase 3- A Stakeholder's group for final interviews of candidates (Stakeholders= staff, volunteers, community members, board members, patrons)
- Potential gift or purchase of stained glass for Amber. We may want to extend to Burlington city heads, former board members, former mayors, etc...
- We should have a conversation about the savings since Amber left in June before the new director comes (about if and when we access it). Money is in the budget for staffing but not for hiring outside consultants.

## **2. Co Directors' Report**

- Fatuma Hassan and Kira Stewart are the new Americorps members.
- At the end of October there will be a new digital display over the circulation desk which will list current announcements.
- There was a special effort by our librarians to go out to the schools to offer/issue library cards to children and parents at all of Burlington's Elementary Schools.
- Payphone in front lobby- one vendor is giving it up and for the FFL to keep it up would be \$75 a month (and we can't keep the quarters) and since it wasn't planned for or budgeted for, we have to get rid of it. It would be a \$1000 expense if we kept with the vendor.
- Rebecca currently lets kids use the phone to call parents- the experience of adults have arguments with spouses has been a problem. When adults inquire at front desk to use phone, staff directs them to the pay phone.
- If allowed patrons to use the phone at the front desk, it would have to be very specific about the reason (minor emergency and up?) Staff would have to be the judge of whether they are having an emergency or not - which can lead to accusations of bias.
- It would be nice to have the service of having a pay phone (does it draw in traffic? it's a great out for us to say use the pay phone). If we are a community center, should we provide that service? Do city departments provide this service? It should be a clear cut policy either way. If someone goes to city hall and needs to make a call, where do they tell them to go? the

library? Maybe we should bring this to the city - it could be a buy in for them if they can send people to FFL for a payphone. Peg suggested asking Burlington Telecom for some help or to troubleshoot.

### **3. Kira and Fatuma , new Americorps members**

- Things are done differently this year with Americorps. They've always worked separately in the past. This year, they are working very closely and have organized it so that there are two different focuses now.
- Kira- outreach, helping Barbara going to elderly, etc... Kira recently graduated from BU in deaf education. She is hoping to incorporate deaf education into her job. So far, she is enjoying outreach deliveries.  
Undergrad- Anthropology
- Fatuma- help Rebecca work with ELL teachers, help Barbara with ELLs and citizenship classes.
- Fatuma graduated in general studies- has been here in VT for about 3 months. She's excited about bringing others to the library- a great opportunity for non English speaking people as well as helping ELL teachers pick right books- storytimes for kids- daycares.
- Rebecca spoke about incorporating "we all belong" americorps topics in labor management meetings...not extending meetings to a longer length, but to shorten other information exchange and add 20 min of discussion. Next month, November, Kira will speak about better ways to work with the deaf.
- What will they do together? Storytimes- Fatuma will go to different homes and daycares...Kira will model for parents an ASL storytime. Meeting with teachers, going to schools.

### **4. Staff Commissioner's Report**

- There was a labor management meeting this past week.
- A United Way representative (a loaned executive) came to speak about different services they have on income, health education. United Way supports the street team which FFL uses all the time- they give staff more of a sense of security.
- Programming- Echo's race exhibit is connected with FFL- there are related lectures and films going on. The author of Some of My Best Friends Are Black will be at FFL.
- The Italian american group has been meeting and doing book discussions
- There will be a calligraphy workshop
- There will be an endangered alphabets lecture by Tim Brookes
- October 20th is John Dewey Day- Frank Gonzalez is spearheading the activities.
- Kudos to Robert C and Robert R for all their extra work since Amber's departure
- The FFL staff met with the mayor and his assistant- A nice open session with about 13 staff members there as well as Eric Lindstrom. Miro made people feel comfortable and Karina described process for interviewing for the new director.

### **5. Committee Reports**

- Development did not meet. Ashley is focusing on annual report.

- Diversity Committee- staff embraced trainings in cultural competency very well; should be reflected in annual report. The “We all belong” conference is on Oct. 26th at the miller center. Board members should try to go as a group to the race exhibit at the ECHO museum.

## **6. Friends of Report**

- Last met on Oct. 4- 35,000 check balance as of Oct. 1
- The updated net profit from the Friends Fall Book Stall- \$6686.
- At their meeting, the Friends spoke about replacing books for lunch possibly and will be exploring their options.
- Robert R said that VT history and local history was an interest in the area.

## **7. Actions To Be Taken**

- Investigate options of a group trip to Echo to see the race exhibit at echo- Eric will send an e-mail to the board
- In consultation with Peg and Robert, Eric will follow up with city hall about payphone
- Eric will remind board members about the importance of attendance at board meetings