



City of Beverly, Massachusetts Public Meeting Minutes

Board: Library Trustees

Subcommittee:

Date: February 20, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

Place: Beverly Public Library, Fogg Room

Board members present: Mary Behrle, Marshall Handly, Colleen Michaels, Cathryn Keefe O'Hare, Kevin O'Reilly, Joanne Panunzio, Myron Schirer-Suter

Board members absent: Margaret Altman, Ivy Mahan

Others present: Anna Langstaff, Allison Babin, Bruce Doig

Recorder: Allison Babin

Kevin O'Reilly presided.

Marshall Handly made the motion, seconded by Joanne Panunzio, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2020. Motion passed.

Public Presentation

None.

Committee Reports

Personnel: Joanne Panunzio reported that three candidates were interviewed for the Library Director position on February 3, 18, and 19. The search committee would like to bring forward two candidates: Allison Babin, Assistant Director of the Beverly Public Library, and Cindy Grove, Director of the Rockport Public Library. The board discussed when to conduct the final interviews and decided on the first week of March. The board discussed when to meet to determine the interview questions and decided to meet at 5:30pm. Mary Behrle thanked Joanne Panunzio for her work on the search committee. The work of Thalia Lewandowski and Meghan Karasin was also acknowledged.

Administration: No report.

Finance: No report.

Long Range Planning: No report.

Report of the Library Director

1) Fiscal Year 2020 Budget: Everything is on track for being a little more than halfway through the fiscal year.

2) Building Issues: An overnight alarm call was taken from the fire department due to the sprinkler system squirting water in the sprinkler room. Junior Building Custodian Joe Bonaiuto did a great job handling the issue. There is no update on the capstone. Despite initial projections that the library van might not be able to be fixed, Frank from the City garage was in fact able to repair it. The van has been returned to the library.

3) Community Engagement: Anna Langstaff shared an editorial titled “The Library is an Open Book” from the January 31, 2020 edition of the Salem News. The editorial cites a finding that Americans used their libraries more than they went to the movies, sporting events, or casinos last year. The Rotary fundraiser scheduled for Friday, March 13 at Danversport will feature dueling pianos, dancing, and fun. Proceeds of the fundraiser will benefit the library’s Teen Room Renovation project. The elimination of overdue fines went into effect on February 1, 2020. Anna Langstaff was interviewed on WBZ radio regarding the elimination of fines. The reaction to the announcement on Facebook was very positive. The Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester has also announced that it is fine-free.

4) Personnel: No report.

5) Programs: Allison Babin shared upcoming program highlights: Reducing Anxiety Through Meditation on Thursday, March 12. Author Talk with Hester Fox on Wednesday, March 25. PLAY! Date on April 24 featuring a variety of puppet themed activities. Annual Friends’ Spring Book Sale from Saturday, April 4 through Saturday, April 11. Monday Mornings will kick off with Kevin O’Reilly’s talk about Climate Change on March 2.

Communications

Anna Langstaff shared information about an Open Meeting law training for boards and commissions that is scheduled for Monday, March 16 from 7-8:30PM in the Council Chambers.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

The next meeting of the board will be March 24, 2020 at 6:00PM at the Beverly Public Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49PM.