



Meeting Minutes Library Board

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

6:30 PM

Public Library

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Present 5 - Board Member Chelsea Tremblay, Board Member Alec McMurren, Board Member Barbara Fish, Marily Menish-Meucci, and Cynthia McDonnell

Excused 2 - Board Member Mary Koppes, and Elizabeth Thompson

2. Approval of the Minutes

Attachments: LIB1217-1 MINUTES

3. Amendment & Approval of Meeting Agenda

Member Menish-Meucci requested the addition of a discussion item related to ideas from the Bellingham Public Library.

4. Visitors Views Related to Agenda

4. Visitors Views Unrelated to Agenda

Assembly Member Jeff Meucci requested that the Library Board increase it's FY19 General Fund request to include the staff and resources necessary to open Sundays. He has heard support from his constituents for this. The Board was interested in the idea but concerned about increasing services in the context of cost cutting and declining revenues.

discussed

Attachments: LIB1217-2 VISITOR REQUEST

5. Staff Report

Summer Recap: It was a very busy summer, as always, but not as busy as 2016. We had far fewer behavioral problems than in the past. One of the most persistent issues was people taking things from outside the Salvation Army Store and leaving them on library grounds and at least one person taking shelter at night behind the building.

Summer Reading Challenge Report: The Summer Reading Challenge was a great success. The program ran smoothly and kids did an amazing variety of activities and tasks. The number of participants was about the same as last year, but it seemed like kids were more engaged and active in the program than we have ever seen. See the attached infographic for more information about this year's program. Some plans for next year include changing the name of the program, including more challenges that encourage

altruism, and allowing kids to earn raffle tickets by counting minutes read (a technical issue made us wary of doing that this year).

Exterior Spaces: Marie's bench was installed on the afternoon of the Summer Solstice. It was a collaborative effort between Joseph Quitslund (metal) and Andy Cowan (wood). The Centennial Park signs have been installed. In addition to the trailhead signs at the top and bottom, there is also an interpretive sign commemorating the site as the home of early pioneers Harold and Magnhild Lee and acknowledging that the land for Centennial Park was given by Eldor and Polly Lee in 2010 in honor of Petersburg's Centennial.

Classes and events

Rainforest Festival: Many of the festival events were held at the library and all were well attended. Chris coordinates this on behalf of the library every year.

Science Series: This regular series presented in partnership with Sunny at the Marine Advisory Program continues to attract a good following. The Eclipse event was by far the most popular with well over 80 people in attendance. The regularly gets 30 people at these popular events.

Manhattan Short Film Festival: Screened in the Community Room Sept 29 & 30 and was well attended.

The Creative Experience: Andrea Weathers taught three teen/adult craft workshops this fall

Curiosity Creates: Thanks to funding from the Friends this will run every week through the fall.

Quiet Defiance: Alaska's Empty Chair Story: Author/Historian Karleen Grummett gave an excellent presentation in October about the Japanese internment experience in southeast Alaska. It was well attended and very powerful. The author paid for all of her own travel costs.

Writing Workshop: State Writer Laureate Ernestine Hayes will visit Jan 2018 to teach a writing workshop. Her travel will be paid for by the Alaska Humanities Forum

Janine Gibbons: Taught a wonderful painting class in December, a reading of the book she recently illustrated is planned.

Oaxaca Film Festival: We'll be hosting this for the first time in January in partnership with the PHS Spanish Club.

Professional Development

I've been taking an online class, "Telling the Library Story with Data". Learning more about infographics and how to improve how we communicate our statistics. Examples were attached in the packet

discussed

Attachments: [LIB1217-3 REPORT](#)

6. Unfinished Business

a. Library Internet

This summer the library replaced wireless hotspot hardware and GCI increased internet speed to 1 Gbps Down/ 50 Mbps up and 1 TB of data. After these two changes we have received almost no complaints about the speed or quality of our public wifi. The flip side of this is that we exceeded our data cap within the first 10 days of the August billing cycle. We're working with PCS to resolve this in a way that does not impact customer experience. Our overage rates are very reasonable.

discussed

b. Gazebo/Story Pole Project update

We have been awarded a Rasmuson Foundation Grant for the Story Pole, so both projects are now fully funded. Alpine Construction is able to add construction of the gazebo to their schedule late next summer Tommy Joseph has indicated the pole might be ready mid April. All of the funds for this project are from grants and donations.

discussed

7. New Business**a. Donation of non library material: Antique Card Catalog**

The Board approved the donation of an antique library card catalog by Karen Hofstad.

approved

Attachments: [LIB1217-4 HOFSTAD DONATION](#)

b. Donation of non library material: Print from author Rosemary Wells

The Board approved the donation of original art from well known children's author, Rosemary Wells.

approved

Attachments: [LIB1217-5 WELLS DONATION](#)

c. Arts Education Endowment Donation

John McCabe donated \$10,000 to the fund on June 23, 2017. He created the fund in 2012, his contributions to date total \$35,540. The balance of the fund as of 9/20/17 is \$41,620.15. Board members discussed how remarkably generous and supportive John has been of arts in the library. It was generally agreed that we should continue to think of ways to thank him.

approved

Attachments: LIB1217-6 MCCABE DONATION

d. Arts Education Endowment Release of Funds Request

The Board agreed unanimously to spend \$1,300 of the Art Education Endowment for the Curiosity Creates weekly afterschool program. The instructor will emphasis art in these STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) programs.

approved

Attachments: LIB1217-7 ART ENDOWMENT

e. Meeting Room Booking Policy Review

The Board approved a change to the current meeting room use policy that allows the Library Director to approve exceptions to the current policy of only allowing the rooms to be booked 8 weeks in advance.

adopted

Attachments: LIB1217-8 MEETING ROOMS

f. Fine Free Policy For Children's materials

The Board approved the elimination of fines on materials from the children's collection. If an item is not returned after one month the patron would still be billed replacement costs. If the item was returned the item replacement charge would be waived and no overdue fines would be charged. This change will take place early in 2018.

adopted

8. Discussion Items

a Ideas from the Bellingham Public Library

Member Menish-Meucci brought back three ideas from the Bellingham library for the Board to consider:

1. Automatic renewals when items do not have holds. The Library Director has asked the system administrator to look into setting this up for us.
2. Charges for temporary patron cards. The Board discussed the benefits and drawbacks of this scenario. It was discussed by the Board a few years ago. The Library Director will gather information to further this discussion at the next meeting.
3. Two week checkout for DVDs. This was generally agreed to be a good idea, particularly in light of the fact that people are usually checking out DVD sets and TV shows.

discussed

b. Borough Manager Giesbrecht is proposing a series of meetings in January to explore cost cutting and revenue generating ideas. Board members are encouraged to take part.

discussed

Attachments: LIB1217-9 COST CUTTING OPEN HOUSES

c. Friends of the Library updates

The book sales continue to go very well and generate healthy profits, averaging \$100-200 per sale. This year the Friends donated to the Library's Summer Reading Challenge, Curiosity Creates and the Totem/Shelter project. The annual Giving Tree is now on display at Sing Lee Alley Books.

discussed

d. Comments/ideas from the public and board members

e. Next meeting: Jan 31, 2018

9. Adjournment