

Library Board of Trustees Meeting
April 18, 2023

On Tuesday, April 18, 2023, a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was held in person at the Walpole Public Library; meeting information and agenda were duly shared with the Town Clerk.

Trustees Present: J. Marciello, D. McElhinney, B. Oremland, M. Rosoff Encarnacion

Also Present: Library Director S. Genovese and Molly Riportelli, Asst Director

The Secretary not being present, a volunteer was designated to take these Minutes.

The Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by D. McElhinney.

Minutes for March 21, 2023 having not yet been presented to the Board, review and approval were tabled.

The Director reported as follows:

- The given **Statistics Summary** for March will be updated in a few places, and the resulting update will become the official record. Meanwhile it was noted in particular that circulation of **electronic materials** was up 5% from February.
- Municipal funding for **books** this Fiscal Year being only \$93,500 while the **state's spending requirement** is \$116,000, about \$23,000 more spending will be accomplished from other Library funds.
- The **Principal Clerk and the Reference Librarian** have returned to work.
- On two occasions to be announced, **the Library will present concerts** by musicians funded by Walpole Cultural Council grants to each.
- There was further discussion surrounding the **memorial gift and naming** proposal considered at the 9/20/22 meeting. Lacking guidelines for such proposals in terms of the many variables, that pending proposal was deferred to the discretion of the Director. As a starting point for future development of the necessary guidelines, the Director is to furnish to the Board the **guidelines** used at the time of the new building fundraising, construction, and outfitting. Meanwhile the Friends proposal to donate a lightbox activity table to the Children's Room, via **gift and wishes of Alice Lorusso**, is likely to be presented to the Board soon.
- There are now sufficient candidates registered to be on the **June election ballot** to fill the two seats on the Board that would otherwise have been vacant then. The Director informed the Board of the town's **procedures** that would take place in any event that a Board seat might become vacant.
- A person who expressed interest in the **open seat on the Endowment Trust** will be invited to attend our Board's May meeting, and hopefully an Endowment Board member can also attend so as to answer the candidate's questions about that Board.
- The **EV charging stations** project is currently being held up by red tape issues between the vendor and Eversource.
- The **Long Range Plan RFP** has not yet been issued but will be updated and issued soon.
- There will eventually be a request for about \$5000 to update the **wireless nodes** to 5G standards. Fortunately the building has Cat6 ethernet cable.
- Molly will be attending the **American Library Association conference** in Chicago, June 22-27.

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- It was noted that a **state aid** amount of \$52,437.56 was recently announced.
- **Friends** Liason B. Oremland attended their meeting on April 3, but had nothing significant to report to the Trustees.

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Parent Advisory Board Report:

- A March meeting with Nikki covered plans for a table with a banner on **Walpole Day, May 13**.
- The P.A.B. will supply **baskets for the Summer Reading program awards**.
- A concern about **how to better use space in the Children's Room**, especially as regards large attendance including adults and baby strollers, led to the Director favoring the **removal of the large table** currently occupying the center of the main room. This will be done once specific plans for the resulting space are decided.
- The P.A.B. is wishing for more **"Things" and kids' computers** to be available.
- To an inquiry about why the **doors of the Children's Event Room are often left open**, the Director cited issues with the HVAC as well as the need for distant staff members to hear if there is any disturbance there.

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- VOTED 4-0-0 to appropriate \$3019.20 to continue licensing **Beanstack** for calendar years 2024-26.
- VOTED 4-0-0 to appropriate not more than \$8000 (\$7000 state aid and \$1000 Endowment) to purchase **coding computer and 3-D printer**.
- **Next proposed meeting dates:** 5/16, 6/27, possibly 8/8. After discussion regarding the continued State allowance for virtual meetings, the consensus for the May and June meetings was for meeting in person as a practical necessity for the expected agenda items then.
- VOTED 4-0-0 to **adjourn** at 8:34 pm.

Submitted by B. Oremland