

Brownell Library Board of Trustees minutes

Essex Junction, Vermont

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Attendees: Ann Wadsworth, Dottie Bergendahl, Erna Deutsch (staff), Linda Costello, Sheila Porter, Christine Packard, Helen Donahey, Lily Larsen, Celine Yao, Jeanne Grant, Wendy Hysko (staff)

Meeting called to order @ 7:06

1. Agenda Changes/Deletions-none
2. Minutes of Tuesday, September 20, 2022, accepted. Dottie motioned, Sheila seconded
3. Financial Report: Joe Knox (Treasurer) absent so we will wait until next month for report on CD earnings and account balance. Dottie presented financial report for July 2022 through September 2022. Acknowledged .Sheila moved to accept and seconded by Ann.
4. Announcements: Christine spoke with Richard Davis (86), a former patron and employee at Brownell many years ago. Wants to make a donation to Brownell in his will. Richard and his wife, Gloria, will meet with Wendy and Christine Friday to visit and discuss donation. Thank you, Richard and Gloria!

Sheila and the children in her afterschool program are so happy to be able to return to the library in person after several years of not being able to come in due to the risks posed by Covid. A huge thank you to the staff for the wonderful collection, activities, and welcoming atmosphere.

Artist reception held last week was a success. Pievy Polyte's paintings were on display and we had an engaging discussion on his artistic process and his life. Art displays and receptions will be held quarterly.

5. Reports: Biblio+ is up and running smoothly. Patrons are enjoying the access to streaming that Biblio+ brings.
6. Committees: We have no committees.
7. Foundation report: Dottie presented. Donated books are a little backed up. Will hold November donation but not December. \$5000 is being donated in memory of former volunteer Marian Bickford to be used for Large Print collection items. Considering ways to weed out older books.
8. Old Business: Covid operations update: proceeding as usual. Masks encouraged but optional. Independence plan update: Wendy meeting with City Manager, Regina, next week, to discuss many items, principal among them being a need to increase salaries for library personnel. Librarians can't afford to live in Vermont. Salaries are at a crisis point. Budget work group: met once. Budget will be submitted Monday. Dottie moved that the trustees support Brownell staff in their efforts to achieve salary parity within Chittenden

County. Sheila seconded. Unanimous approval. Internal and external salary studies need to be done and there also needs to be equity across City departments for professional development.

9. New Business: Train Hop is on! Scheduled for December 9, 2022. Lindsey at EJRP is organizing and will commence preparations after Halloween. Marketing library programs: Trustees were encouraged to attend and promote library programs, particularly First Wednesdays. Jason Chin's presentation a couple of weeks ago was excellent!
10. Adjournment: Sheila motioned we adjourn and Linda seconded.