

Brownell Library Trustees

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2024

Brownell Trustees in attendance: Dottie Bergendahl, Helen Donahey, Jeanne Grant, Karen Hergesheimer, Christine Packard, Sheila Porter, Ann Wadsworth

Teen Trustees: none

Brownell Staff in Attendance: Wendy Hysko, Alison Pierce

Meeting called to order at/by: Jeanne at 7:02pm

1. Agenda Changes/Deletions:

Jeanne asked to add under Committee Reports a request for more money for translation of the strategic plan into Nepali.

2. Public to be Heard - none

3. Announcements: Sheila will be speaking at the Lyons Club on 10/23/24, discussing what's available at the library, volunteer opportunities, swaps, streaming services, etc.

Vermont Film Screening "Underdog" will take place at the library on 10/23/24 at 6:00 pm.

Humanities Council Snapshot program "Deep Roots and Strong Branches: American Abenaki Narratives and Healing" will be held at the library on 10/30/24 at 6:30 pm.

4. Minutes of 9/17/24

Dottie moved to accept minutes as corrected; Sheila seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. Financial Report:

Ann reported that the checking has \$2410.25 and the CD earned \$12.66 in interest.

Dottie reviewed the budget to date and she pointed out that the totaled numbers at the bottom of the general fund budget report don't make sense.

Sheila moved to acknowledge the financial report; Christine seconded. Passed unanimously.

6. Reports: Library Director and Staff Report

Dottie commented about the report, wondering who called the police, and expressed concern about the unhoused person needing the cover from the pavilion patio heater to use as a cover for sleeping. Jeanne expressed appreciation of staff for their caring toward unhoused patrons. Jeanne felt concern about the Abenaki talk and the chance of violence. Wendy said that there should only be verbal disruptions, not physical. Security will be provided that night by the VT Humanities Council.

Youth programs – number of programs are down. September is time for staff to have a break from summer programming.

7. Committee Reports:

Strategic plan – The survey is finished after some final tweaks and the changes need to be translated. Dottie moved to add \$220 to the original motion for translation to up to \$720 total to pay for translation. Christine seconded. Motion passed.

Hannah made a flyer about the strategic plan. Businesses that have given gift certificates will be listed on the flyer.

8 Foundation Report:

Foundation's income is not keeping pace with the amount that the Foundation regularly gives to the library. No thought about cutting back at this point. Foundation is considering sending out letters to request donations.

9. Old Business:

Roof/door renovation: straight replacement of roof only

Lincoln Hall renovation - City Council meetings are moving to the police station.

Library trustees/MOU – Jeanne hoped to be able to bring it to the trustees tonight, but needs more time to look thru it, will bring to Nov meeting.

Budget work group – budget came in at 3%. Buildings Budget is dire at this point; cleaning service costs keep increasing. Funding for Building Budget is an 11% increase. Would have to cut cleaning and maintenance if held to a 3% increase.

Budget hearing is on Dec 3.

Work plan – Library staff have worked on a draft with the administration.

Increased Kolvoord Room use management - Acknowledging that it's an ongoing stressor for staff. Trying to get details sorted out.

10. New Business:

Increase in unhoused visitors in Essex Junction

Patrons could be coming into the library with guns. Can't restrict guns from being brought into the library.

Library Trustees at Pumpkinpalooza: Paid event on October 26, 2024; not everyone can have access to it. Pumpkin display is free. Have to pay to go on winding path of lights and tents with people (local businesses) who are dressed up, handing out candy. Advertised widely, lots of out of towners come to it. It doesn't align with our values so we won't be participating.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. Dottie moved to adjourn; Sheila seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Wadsworth

This meeting will be held at Brownell Library in the Library's Kolvoord Community Room, 6 Lincoln St. Essex Junction, Vermont. Accommodations will be provided upon request to the Library Director to assure that library meetings are accessible to all individuals regardless of disability.

Note on Vermont Open Meeting Law - minutes must be taken at every public meeting and must include at least the members present, active participants, motions made, and votes taken. And posted on website and be available by request within 5 days of meeting.

***Minutes should be provided to Library Staff for posting by Friday afternoon of the meeting week to adhere to Vermont Open Meeting law. ***